5

GHOST HUNT

Manga by **Shiho Inada**

Story by **Fuyumi Ono**

GHOST HUNT 5 Shiho Inada Fuyumi Ono

A VERY DANGEROUS GAME

The students of Ryokuryou High School *think* they've been playing a fun new game called Orikiri. They have no idea that it's actually a wicked spell conjuring up evil spirits that intend to kill their sensei! Even more troubling is that with each passing minute, the strongest spirit eerily devours the other apparitions and grows ever more destructive. Since the spirit can't be stopped, there's only one way to save the sensei: turn the curse around onto the students who initiated it! Mai and Naru clash mightily on this case, as Shibuya Psychic Research must choose between the sensei and the students... and time's running out!

Includes special extras after the story!

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KODANSHA

GRAPHIC NOVEL

5
GHOST HUNT
Manga by Shiho Inada
Story by Fuyumi Ono

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MANGA BY SHIHO INADA

STORY BY FUYUMI ONO

TRANSLATED BY EGAN LOO

ADAPTED BY DAVID WALSH

LETTERED BY FOLTZ DESIGN

LONDON

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Honorifics Explained

Throughout the Tanoshimi Manga books, you will find Japanese honorifics left intact in the translations. For those not familiar with how the Japanese use honorifics, and, more important, how they differ from English honorifics, we present this brief overview.

Politeness has always been a critical facet of Japanese culture. Ever since the feudal era, when Japan was a highly stratified society, use of honorifics—which can be defined as polite speech that indicates relationship or status—has played an essential role in the Japanese language. When addressing someone in Japanese, an honorific usually takes the form of a suffix attached to one's name (example: "Asuna-san"), as a title at the end of one's name, or in place of the name itself (example: "Negi-sensei" or simply "Sensei!").

Honorifics can be expressions of respect or endearment. In the context of manga and anime, honorifics give insight into the nature of the relationship between characters. Many translations into English leave out these important honorifics, and therefore distort the feel of the original Japanese. Because Japanese honorifics contain nuances that English honorifics lack, it is our policy at Tanoshimi not to translate them. Here, instead, is a guide to some of the honorifics you may encounter in Tanoshimi Manga.

-san: This is the most common honorific and is equivalent to Mr., Miss, Ms., Mrs., etc. It is the all-purpose honorific and can be used in any situation where politeness is required.

-sama: This is one level higher than "-san." It is used to confer great respect.

-dono: This comes from the word "tono," which means "lord." It is an even higher level than "-sama" and confers utmost respect.

-kun: This suffix is used at the end of boys' names to express familiarity or endearment. It is also sometimes used by men among friends, or when addressing someone younger or of a lower station.

-chan: This is used to express endearment, mostly toward girls. It is also used for little boys, pets, and between lovers. It gives a sense of childish cuteness.

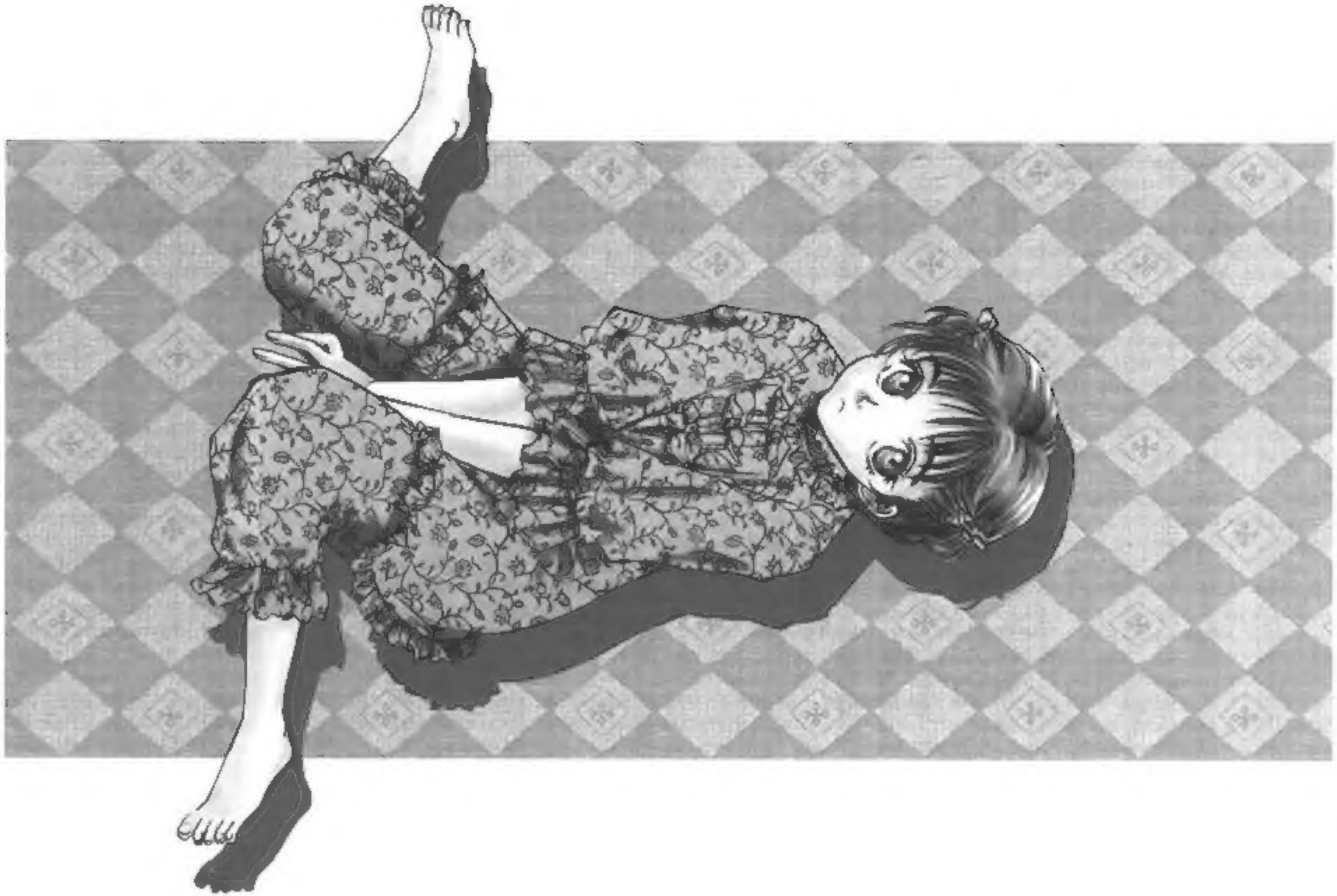
Bozu: This is an informal way to refer to a boy, similar to the English terms "kid".

Sempai/ Senpai: This title suggests that the addressee is one's senior in a group or organization. It is most often used in a school setting, where underclassmen refer to their upperclassmen as "sempai." It can also be used in the workplace, such as when a newer employee addresses an employee who has seniority in the company.

Kohai: This is the opposite of "-sempai," and is used toward underclassmen in school or newcomers in the workplace. It connotes that the addressee is of a lower station.

Sensei: Literally meaning "one who has come before," this title is used for teachers, doctors, or masters of any profession or art.

-[blank]: This is usually forgotten on these lists, but is perhaps the most significant difference between Japanese and English. The lack of honorific means that the speaker has permission to address the person in a very intimate way. Usually, only family, spouses, or very close friends have this kind of license. Known as *yobisute*, it can be gratifying when someone who has earned the intimacy starts to call one by one's name without an honorific. But when that intimacy hasn't been earned, it can also be insulting.



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FROM THE
EVIL SPIRIT SERIES

GHOST HUNT

5

A FORBIDDEN GAME

GHOST HUNT

THIS IS WHAT SPR IS ALL ABOUT!

WHERE'S THE CASE NOW...?

SPR INVESTIGATES RYOKURYOU HIGH SCHOOL WHERE STUDENTS HAVE COMMITTED SUICIDE, FALLEN ILL FROM FOOD POISONING...AND ENCOUNTERED SPIRITS. A SPIRIT NAMED "ORIKIRI-SAMA" SEEMS TO BE THE KEY TO THIS CASE, BUT IT HAS BEEN A TOUGH CASE TO CRACK SO FAR. WILL MAI'S NIGHTMARISH VISION STILL COME TRUE?

THE MEMBERS ARE...

WHEN SPR HAD INVESTIGATED MAI'S SCHOOL ON A PAST CASE, THESE MEMBERS JOINED FORCES TO EXORCISE IT.

LIN-SAN

NARU'S ENIGMATIC ASSOCIATE.

MASAKO HARA

A WELL-KNOWN EXORCIST IN THE PSYCHIC INDUSTRY.

JOHN BROWN

AN EXORCIST WHO SPEAKS WITH A KANSAI DIALECT.

AYAKO MATSUZAKI

A SELF-CLAIMED "MIKO."

HOUSHOU TAKIGAWA

FORMERLY A MONK AT KOUYA MOUNTAIN.

SHIBUYA PSYCHIC RESEARCH (SPR)

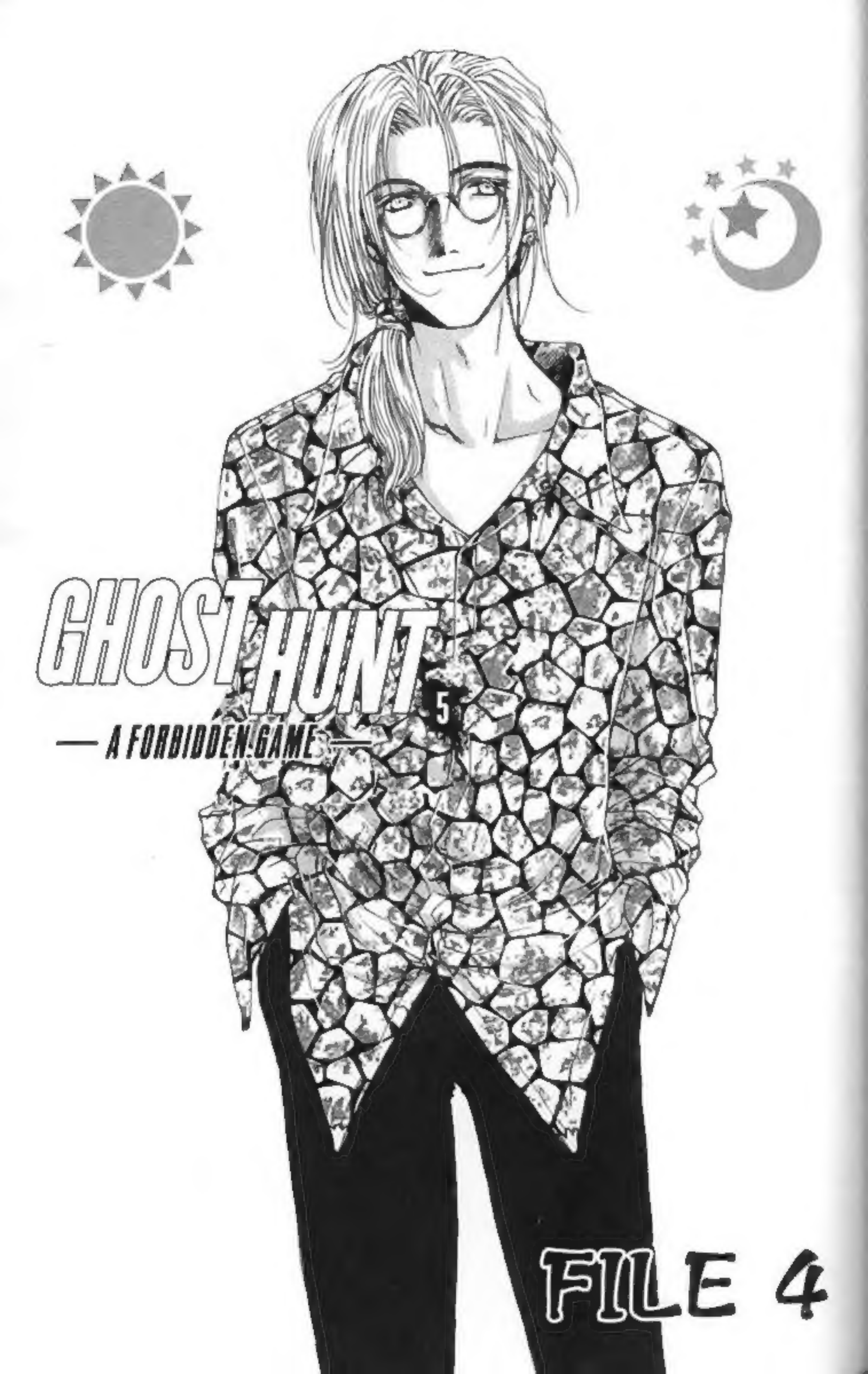
AVAILABLE FOR HIRE TO SCIENTIFICALLY RESEARCH AND SUBDUE UNEXPLAINABLE PHENOMENA

SPR PRESIDENT: KAZUYA SHIBUYA (AKA NARU)

HE IS SHARP AND EXTREMELY INTELLIGENT, BUT VERY MUCH A NARCISSIST... SO HE HAS BEEN NICKNAMED NARU (SHORT FOR NARCISSIST).

MAI TANIYAMA

A LIVELY 16-YEAR-OLD STUDENT WHO WORKS PART-TIME AT SPR. ENTHUSIASTIC, ALTHOUGH NARU ALWAYS GIVES HER A HARD TIME. (SHE'S ONLY SEEN NARU SMILE IN HER DREAMS!) BUT SHE MAY SECRETLY BE IN LOVE WITH HIM♡!


GHOST HUNT 5
— A FORBIDDEN GAME —
FILE 4

STUDIO

HOW DID THIS HAPPEN?

.....

JUST LIKE IN YOUR VISION.

RYOKURYOU HIGH REPORTED "A LOCKER ROOM FIRE ON THE 12TH DAY" AFTER THE GHOST INCIDENTS STARTED.

SO NARU DECIDED TO SET UP OUR DETECTION EQUIPMENT IN THE STUDIO INSTEAD.

BUT IN MY VISION, I REMEMBER THINKING, "THIS LOOKS LIKE A TV STUDIO, NOT THE LOCKER ROOM."

I CAN'T BELIEVE IT. IT REALLY HAPPENED!

AND THEN...

IT ACTUALLY FEELS KINDA GOOD TO BE USEFUL FOR ONCE.

YOU SAID THE WALLS WOULD GET BURNT, BUT DID YOU SAY IT WOULD BE THIS BAD?

BUT THIS IS FAR WORSE THAN YOU DESCRIBED.

WHAT DID YOU EXPECT?

BUT...

AND THE NURSE'S OFFICE.

UM... IN THE PRINT SHOP... THE LANGUAGE LAB...

BUT WHAT?

IT WAS PROBABLY JUST DUMB LUCK THAT I FOUND THIS STUDIO.

WHERE ELSE WERE THE PHANTOM LIGHTS?

HUH?

INDEED.

ALL THIS FROM A FIRE EXTIN-GUISHER?

WHAT A MESS.

WOULDN'T YOU SAY THIS CAMERA'S JUST ABOUT HAD IT?

HEY, NARU-BOU.

NOT THAT I'M COUNTING ON YOU.

WHAT DID YOU SAY!?

HUH!? BUT, DIDN'T YOU SAY...

DON'T WORRY. IT WAS INSURED.

I SEE.

HMM?

BUT YOU DIDN'T NEED THE MONEY. YOU JUST WANTED FREE HELP, RIGHT?

THAT I HAD TO WORK FOR YOU TO PAY FOR THE OTHER CAMERA THAT I BROKE.

YOU KNOW...

I'M JUST SAYING

YOU JERK!

YOU BIG FRAUD!!!

LIN, RESET THE EQUIPMENT.

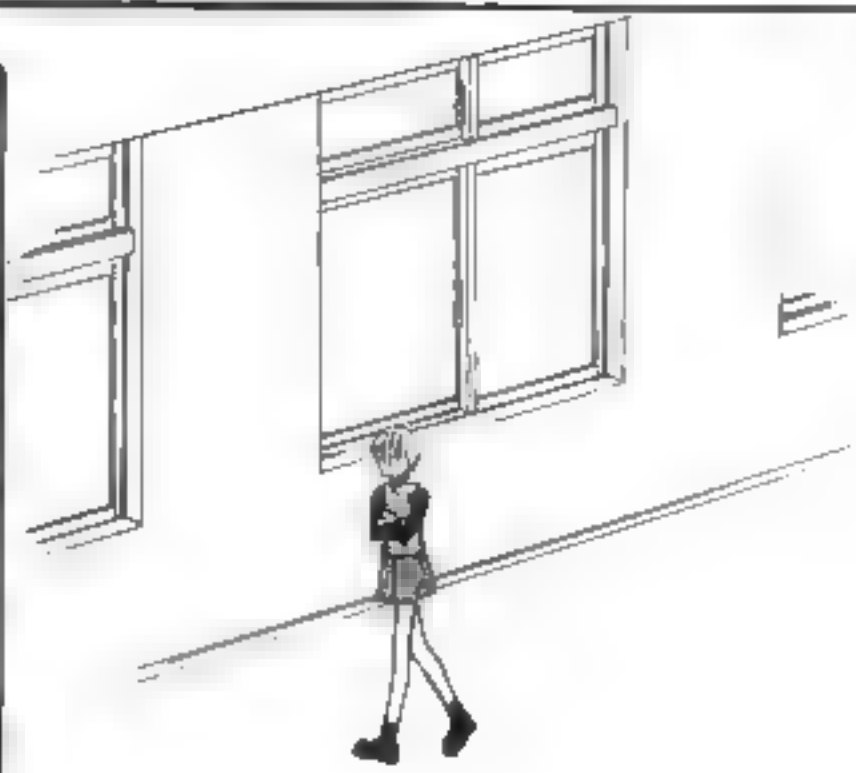
YES, SIR.

MY TOES! WATCH OUT FOR MY FEET!

WATCH WHAT YOU'RE DOING!

DAMN YOU!

YOU MIGHT BE GETTING A LITTLE TOO SMART FOR YOUR OWN GOOD.



UH... MATSUYAMA!

SO YOU CAN'T PERFORM THAT EXORCISM OR WHATEVER, HUH?

I HEARD THAT ANOTHER FIRE BROKE OUT THIS MORNING.

HEY!

HOW'S YOUR SO-CALLED "EXORCISM" GOING?

YOU'RE SCAMMING US FOR THE MONEY, AREN'T YOU!?!?

AREN'T YOU!?

IT'S ALL BEEN JUST A BIG FABRICATION.

I KNEW FROM THE START THERE WEREN'T ANY GHOSTS.

ANSWER ME!

ONLY PEOPLE WHO CLING TO STUPID SUPERSTITIONS BELIEVE IN GHOSTS... ISN'T THAT RIGHT?

"PLEASE DIRECT ALL COMPLAINTS TO MANAGEMENT." EXCUSE ME!

I'M SORRY, I'M WORKING RIGHT NOW.

THE ONES WHO'LL CLING TO THE OCCULT TO THE END OF THEIR MISERABLE LIVES!

LIKE THE IDIOTS AT MY SCHOOL.

WHY DOESN'T THAT SURPRISE ME?

WHAT? YOU DIDN'T KNOW ABOUT HIM?

JUST LIKE SAKAUCHI-KUN.

YOU'RE NOT SORRY SAKAUCHI-KUN'S DEAD?

OTHER WORDS, SENSEI,

CLENCH

HE MUST HAVE EXPERIENCED HARDSHIP AT SCHOOL.

THAT FOOL BELIEVED IN THE SPIRIT WORLD, TOO!

WELL, THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT IT SOUNDS LIKE YOU'RE SAYING!

WHAT? WHO TOLD YOU THAT!?

RATTLE

DASH

WHA–

WHAT WAS THAT!?

HEY, MAI!

MONK-SAN.

WHAT HAPPENED?

NO IDEA– I JUST GOT HERE, TOO.

KLATTER

KRASSSH!

KYAAAA!

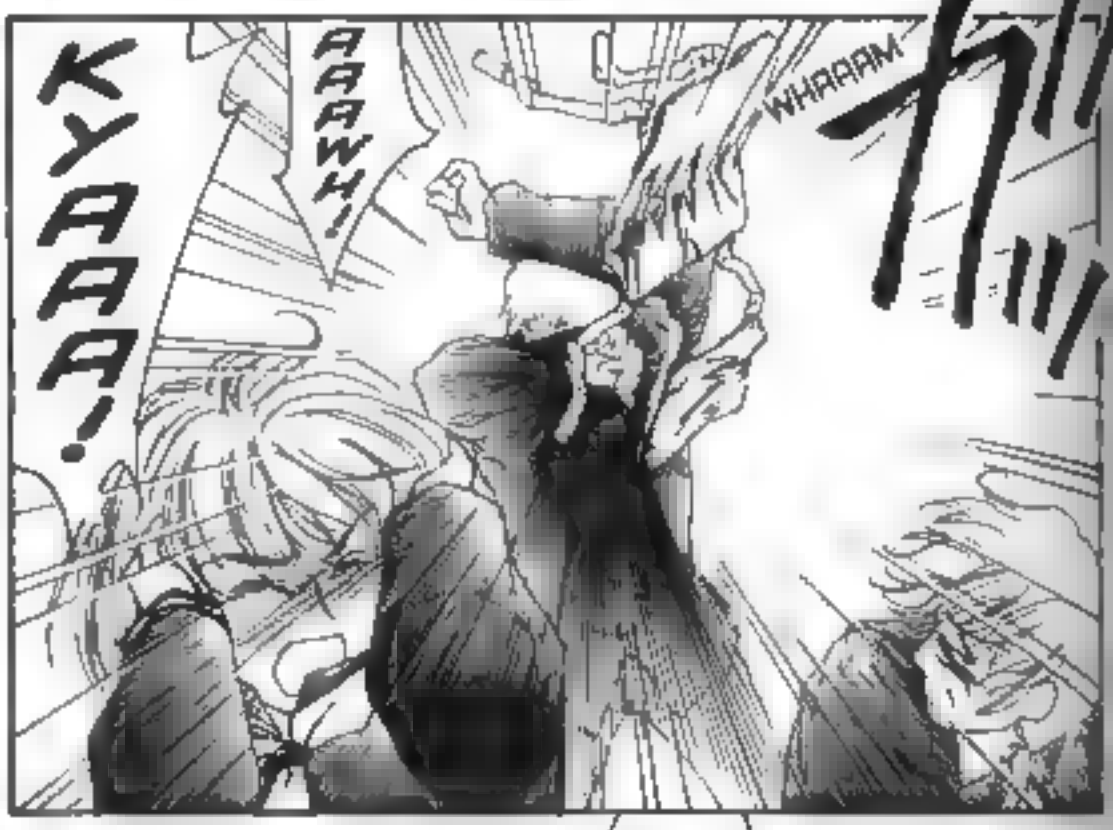
WHA–

SHOCK

WHIRRL

IS THIS THE SAME DOG?

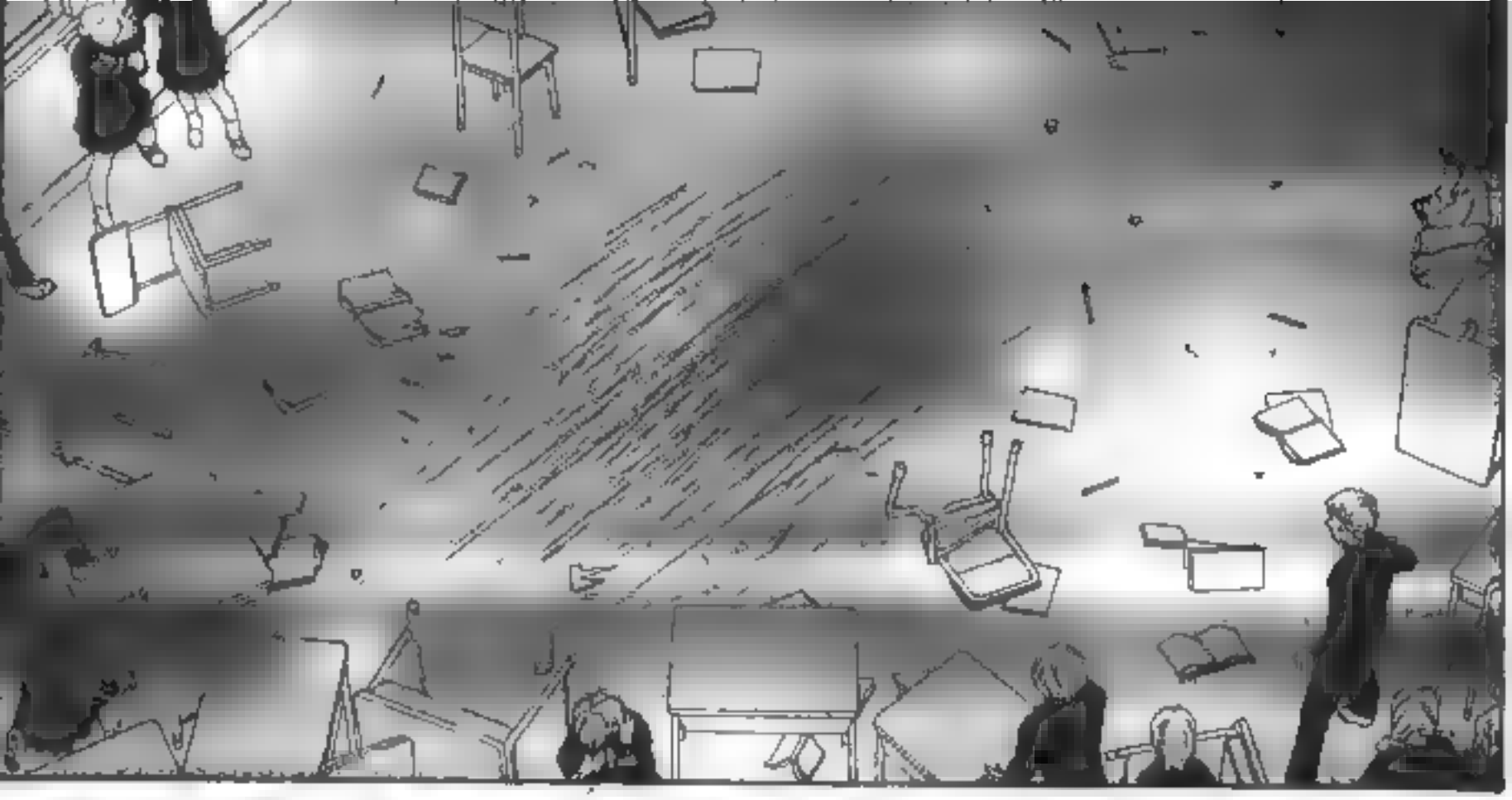
TRK


KYAAA!
AAAWH!
WHRAAM

SUU!

NYAA

MAI!
GRRRR
HA?



WHAT WAS THAT SPIRIT?
IT SEEMED ALMOST REAL.

UH.
OKAY.

HA
COULD YOU PLEASE CALL AN AMBULANCE? SOME STUDENTS HAVE BEEN HURT.
MATSUYAMA-SENSEI.
SENSEI.

AND MUCH STRONGER, TOO.

BUT IT WAS MUCH BIGGER.

I THINK SO.

SO THAT WAS THE SAME DOG FROM BEFORE, RIGHT?

CRASSH

SO...

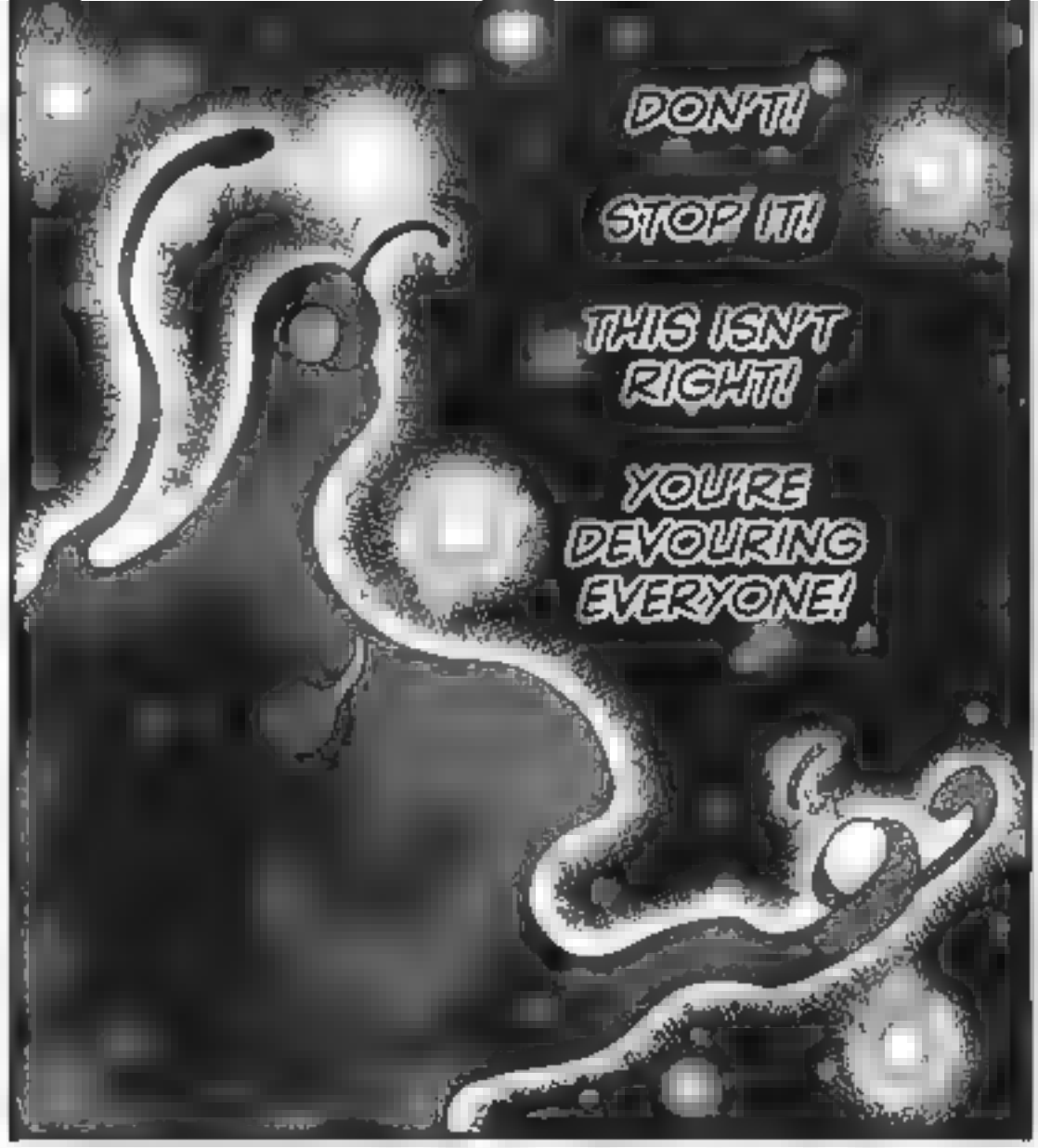
BLINK!

STAGGGER

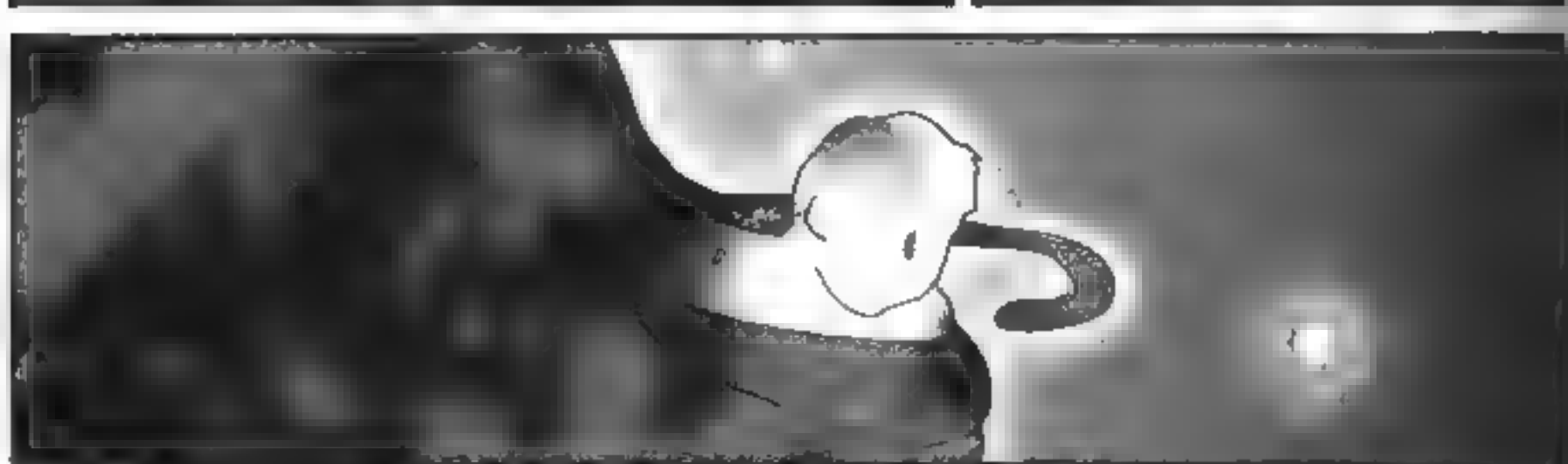
MASAKO !?

WHAT'S THE MA...

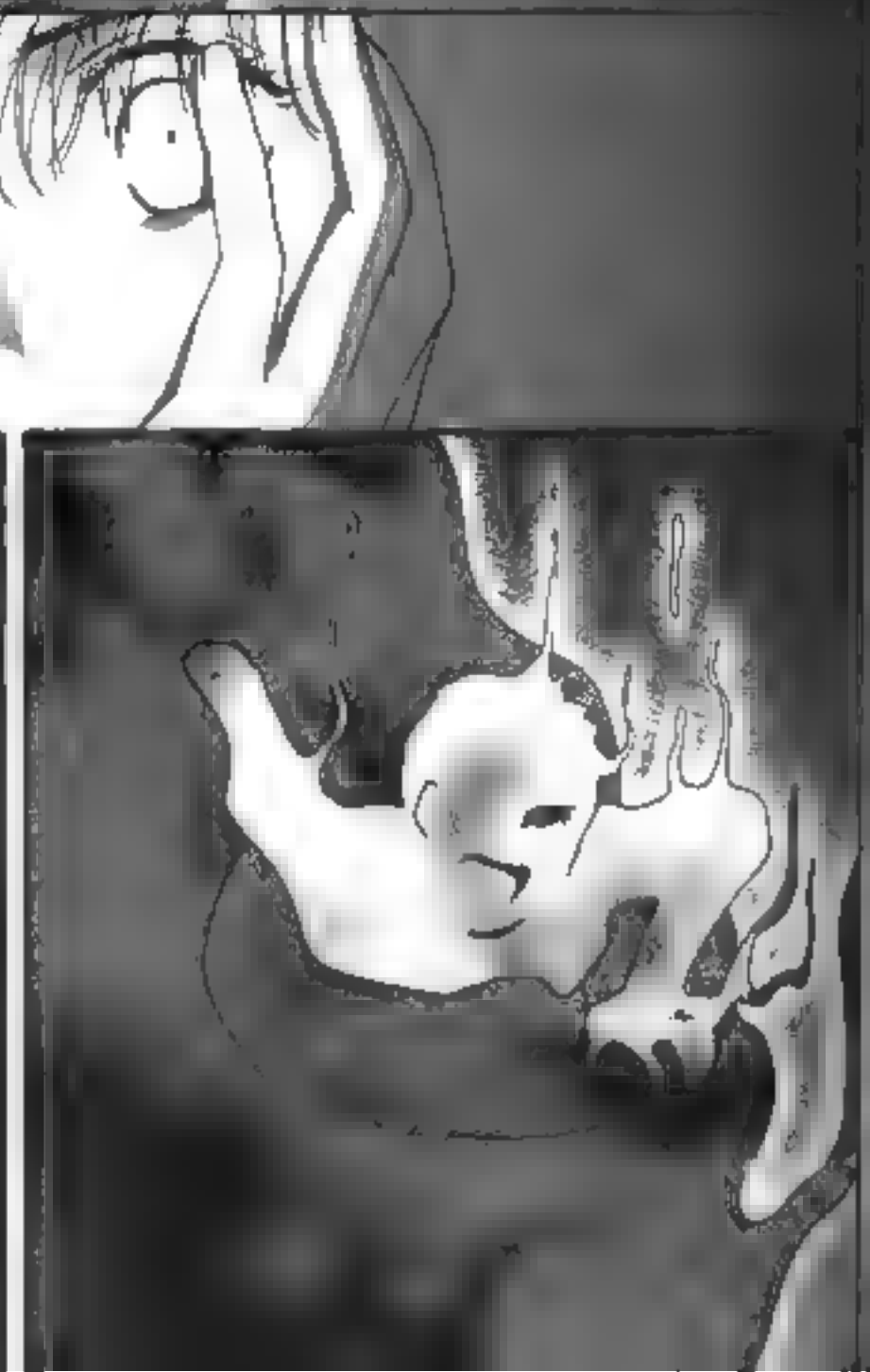
WHAT'S CAUSING IT?
WHAT'S HAPPENING...?
BA-DUM
OOOOOON


DON'T!
STOP IT!
THIS ISN'T RIGHT!
YOU'RE DEVOURING EVERYONE!

IT'S JUST LIKE MY VISION YESTER-DAY.



HOW GROSS!
THIS...
CAN'T BE...



SAKAUCHI-
KUNNN!!
BA-DUM
BA-DUM

SA-KA-UCHI...
BIKUN
GI
GICHI
GOZO
TOPUUN

KIIIII!
HEY–
HEY! ARE YOU OKAY?

BOTH OF YOU SUDDENLY COLLAPSED.

WHAT HAPPENED?

YES.

DID YOU SEE IT, TOO?

MASAKO...

SAKAUCHI-SAN...

HE VANISHED!

CONFERENCE ROOM
I WAS CHANNELING MAI'S VISION.
THE SPIRITS WERE DEVOURING ONE ANOTHER.
THEY... SWALLOWED SAKAJCHI-SAN.
THE SPIRIT THAT DEVOURS GROWS MORE POWERFUL, RIGHT?
SO THEN...
AN EXPELLED SPIRIT IS NOT AN EXORCISED SPIRIT. IT HAS MERELY "ESCAPED" TO ANOTHER PLACE.
WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A SPIRIT THAT DEVOURS AND ONE THAT IS ITSELF DEVOURED?

LET'S ASSUME YOU WERE HAVING A VISION OF THINGS TO COME.

IF THIS WERE TO CONTINUE...

WHO KNOWS WHAT FORM IT COULD TAKE?

AND, IN THE END, ONLY ONE SPIRIT REMAINED...

WHAT'S THAT?

I'VE GOT SOMETHING YOU MIGHT BE INTERESTED IN...

AND AFTER DISCUSSING IT YESTERDAY WITH TANIYAMA-SAN...

I TRIED TO TRACE THE ORIGIN OF ORIKIRI-SAMA AT THIS SCHOOL.

I LEARNED ORIKIRI-SAMA APPEARED ABOUT TWO SEMESTERS AGO.

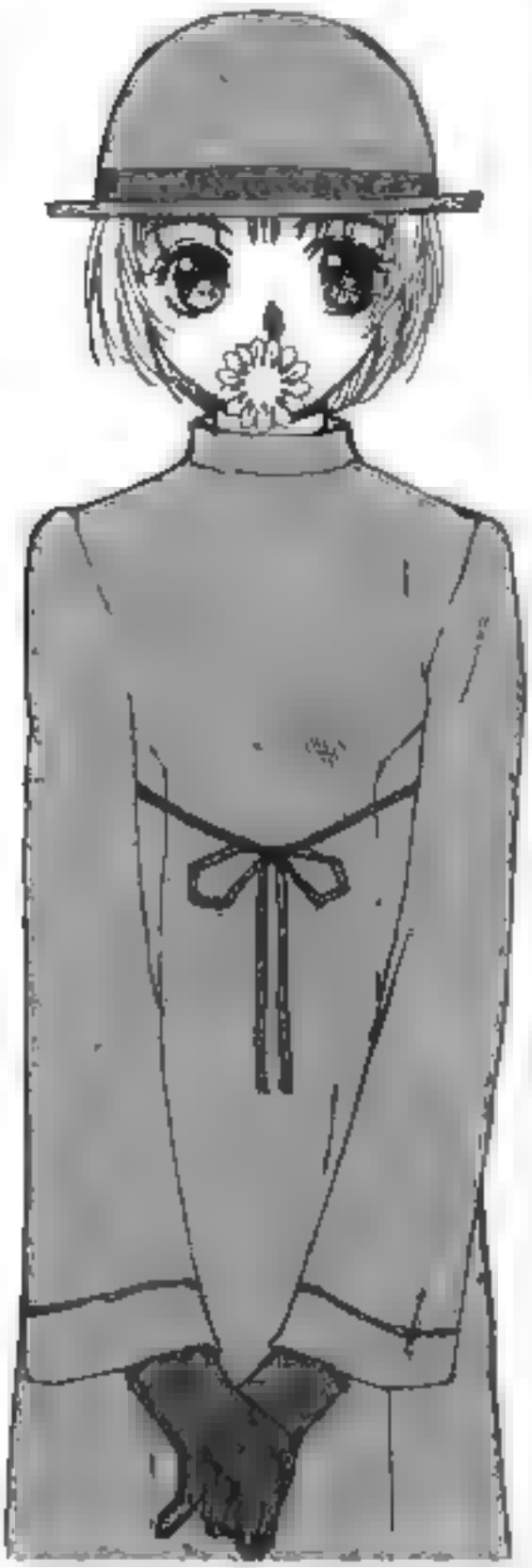
THERE ARE TWO WAYS I THINK IT COULD HAVE GOTTEN HERE.

EITHER A FRESHMAN SUMMONED IT, OR IT WAS A STUDENT IN THE ART CLUB.

AND SO...

HEL-MEOW-MEOW-LO/
THIS IS SHIHO INADA/

I P-P-PRESENT TO YOU
GHOST HUNT VOLUME 5/



THIS IS THE CONCLUSION TO THE "FORBIDDEN GAME" STORY ARC. VOLUME 4 ABRUPTLY ENDED WITH A CLIFFHANGER SO EVERYONE READING MUST HAVE THOUGHT, "GAH/ WHAT A DILEMMA/" WHILE WAITING FOR THIS. YOU CAN NOW REST AT EASE/ (WHAT KIND OF GREETING IS THIS/?)

SO PLEASE CONTINUE ENJOYING THIS MANGA/

.....
SO THIS SUMMONED SPIRIT..
IT COULD USE ANY NUMBER OF MEANS OF POSSESSION TO SPREAD.
ANYWAY, IT WAS LESS THAN TWO SEMESTERS AGO THAT IT BEGAN SPREADING AMONG THE FRESHMEN OR THE ART STUDENTS.
IT COULD MEAN SOMETHING, OR NOTHING AT ALL.
AND I CAN'T FIGURE OUT WHY THIS PLACE IN PARTICULAR HAS ATTRACTED SO MANY SPIRITS.
...OBVIOUSLY IT'S STRANGE, BUT...
EVEN WITH THE MANY MEANS OF POSSESSION IT HAS AT HAND, THERE'S NO RHYME OR REASON TO ITS WAYS.
AH! I'M SUCH AN IDIOT!
I DIDN'T DISCOVER JUST ONE GRAVE. THE RYOKURYOU RUINS WERE ONCE AN ENTIRE NARA-ERA CEMETERY!
WELL, THAT WOULD MAKE SENSE.
COULD IT BE CONNECTED TO A BURIAL GROUND?

NORMALLY, SPIRITS CAN'T ESCAPE BECAUSE OF *KEKKAI*, BUT THIS IS ONE WAY IT COULD.

THE SITE OF AN ANCIENT CEMETERY IS BOUNDED BY *KEKKAI*, SO SPIRITS ARE CURSED TO AIMLESSLY WANDER IN IT.

OF COURSE/

OH, THAT MAKES SENSE.

SO THAT'S THE KEY TO THIS MYSTERY.

A STUDENT COULD—IN THEORY, ANYWAY—SUMMON A SPIRIT OUT.

WE DIDN'T KNOW THAT ABOUT THIS SCHOOL.

THANK YOU.

IT'S EASY TO SAY "PLEASE GO OUT ALL ALONE IN THE NIGHT AT A HAUNTED SCHOOL!"

IT WOULD'VE BEEN NICE IF SOMEONE HAD OFFERED TO COME ALONG.

EEEK

IT'S JUST PICKING UP A TAPE AND BRINGING IT BACK TO THE CONFERENCE ROOM!

WHAT WOULD YOU DO IF I REFUSED TO DO THESE ODD JOBS!?

THAT'S IT!

KACHAN カチ

ALL DONE.

ALL RIGHT!

BIOLOGY ROOM

RATTLE ガラ

MY FLASH-LIGHT BROKE?
BUK

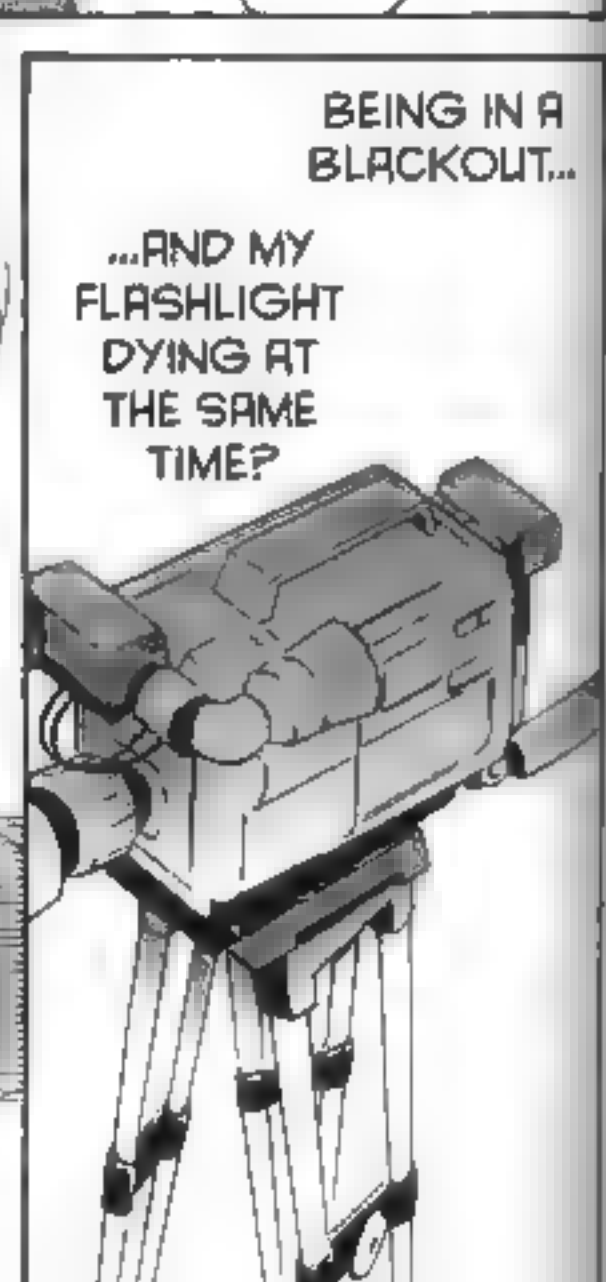
WH-
WHAT?
かち かち かち
KACHI KACHI KACHI

F..CK

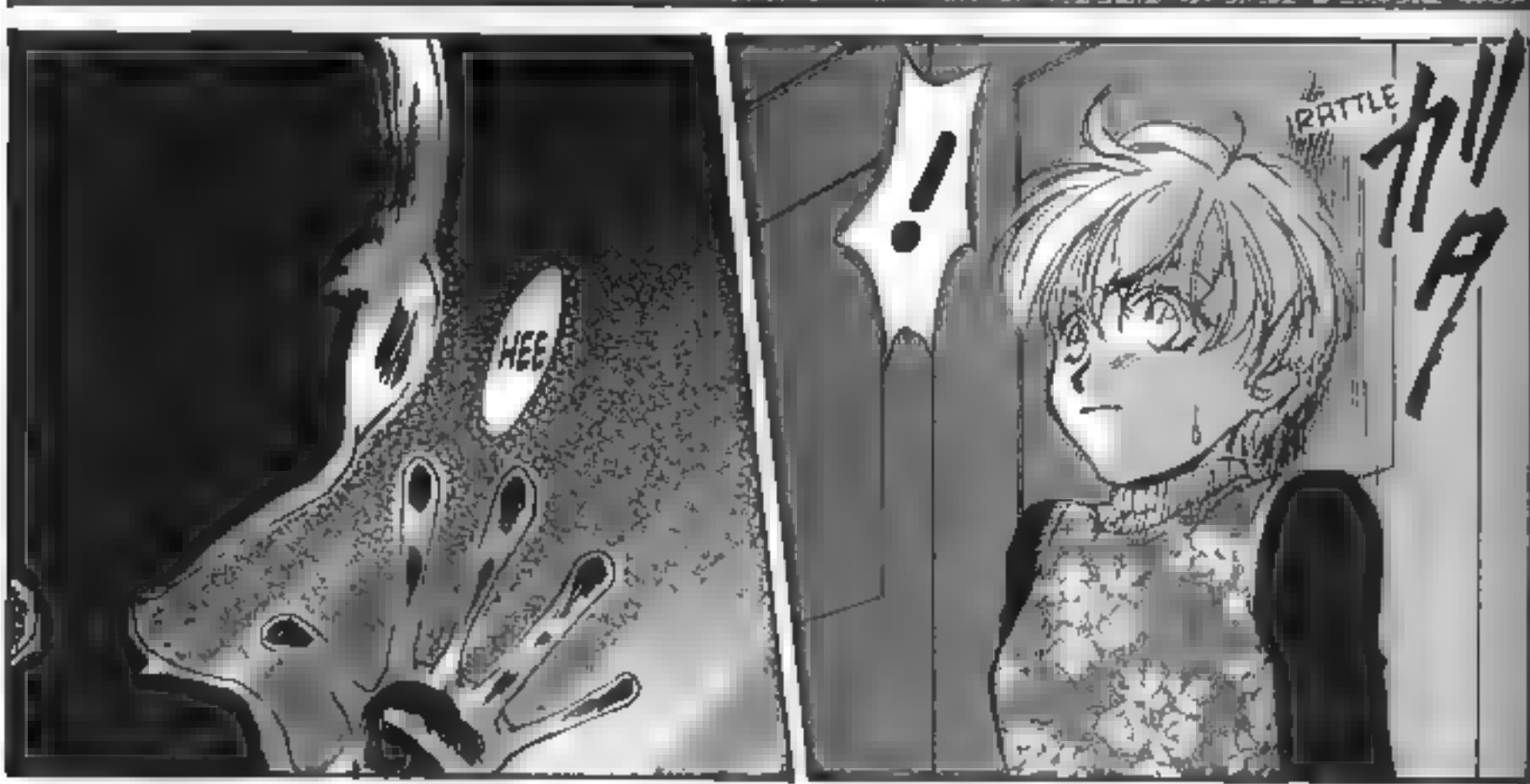
WHAT ARE THE ODDS OF...
GASP
はっ

GAH!
NOW, JUST A MINUTE!
STOP MESSING WITH ME!

THIS IS TOO CREEPY.
GOTTA GET OUT OF HERE ASAP.


BEING IN A BLACKOUT...
...AND MY FLASHLIGHT DYING AT THE SAME TIME?

RATTLE
RATTLE
RATTLE
IS THIS DOOR JAMMED?
GACHI
RATTLE
RATTLE
IT DOESN'T EVEN HAVE A LOCK!
HEY, WHAT'S GOING ON!?
HEE
HEE
HEE
HEE
HEE


HEE
!
RATTLE
カリ

THAT DOESN'T MAKE SENSE!
HERE? AT THIS HOUR?
KLINK

THEY'RE CHILDREN.

HEE
HEE
HEE HEE

KRASH

GURA-

KYAAA

KLATTER

KLATTER KLATTER

KLINK KLINK KLINK

DRIP

KRASH

KRASH

KRASH

!

THAT SMELLS LIKE FORMALIN.

IT MUST HAVE TIPPED OVER.

BAM
BAM
BAM
SOME-BODY, GET ME OUT! HELP MEEEE!!
OH NO!
NO–
SOME-BODY...
HELP
ME...

FILE 5

GHOST HUNT 5

— A FORBIDDEN GAME —

SSSSS
HAPPENED TO ME?
PLOP
WHAT...
THAT BLACK ENTITY.
IT'S STILL DEVOURING SPIRITS.

WHOOSH
LIKE SAKAUCHI-KUN—

I WONDER WHOSE ROOM THIS IS.
WAIT.
TEACHING HIGH-LEVEL MAGIC
PSYCHIC
OCCULT
RELIGIOUS STUDIES
NARU'S PROBABLY READ THEM ALL.
WOW!
THESE LOOK LIKE OFFICE BOOK-SHELVES.
IT FEELS LIKE A ROOM SOME-ONE RETURNED TO AFTER ABANDONING IT A LONG TIME AGO.
I SENSE A LONELINESS IN THIS ROOM.

BASHI
-10.8
1.9 TOMOAKI SAKAUCHI-SAMA 15 YEARS OL
THIS TRAIN PASS HAS EXPIRED.
-SO.
11.-1
SPLSH
THIS IS HIS ROOM.

I'M SORRY.
WE COULDN'T SAVE YOU.
I'M SO SORRY.
FORGIVE...
!
NO—
MAI!

YOU'RE FINALLY COMING TO?

ABOUT THE DOOR ART

THE "DOOR" IS THE VERY FIRST PAGE OF EACH CHAPTER WHEN IT RAN IN THE ORIGINAL MAGAZINE. IT'S THE PAGE WITH JUST A DRAWING ON IT. (THE "COVER" IS THE VERY FIRST PAGE IN THE ENTIRE MAGAZINE ISSUE. THIS MANGA SERIES WAS POPULAR ENOUGH TO EARN A FULL-COLOR COVER IN EVERY ISSUE, TOO.)

FOR THE CURRENT STORY ARC ("A FORBIDDEN GAME"), I TRIED TO ADD EYEGLASSES TO EVERYONE IN THE "DOOR" PICTURES!

ALL OF MY READERS QUICKLY NOTICED THIS AND BY THE THIRD CHAPTER I WAS SHOWERED WITH LETTERS ASKING, "IS THIS THE EYEGLASSES SERIES?" (WOW, YOU NOTICED!)

AND NARU AND *MONK-SAN'S* PICTURES CAUSED THE BIGGEST BUZZ.

NARU—WELL, HE *IS* THE MALE LEAD, SO THAT'S UNDERSTANDABLE, BUT MONK-SAN...WELL, MONK-SAN WAS ALWAYS AMAZINGLY POPULAR BEFORE, BUT I THINK YOU REALLY RESPONDED TO HIM THIS TIME.

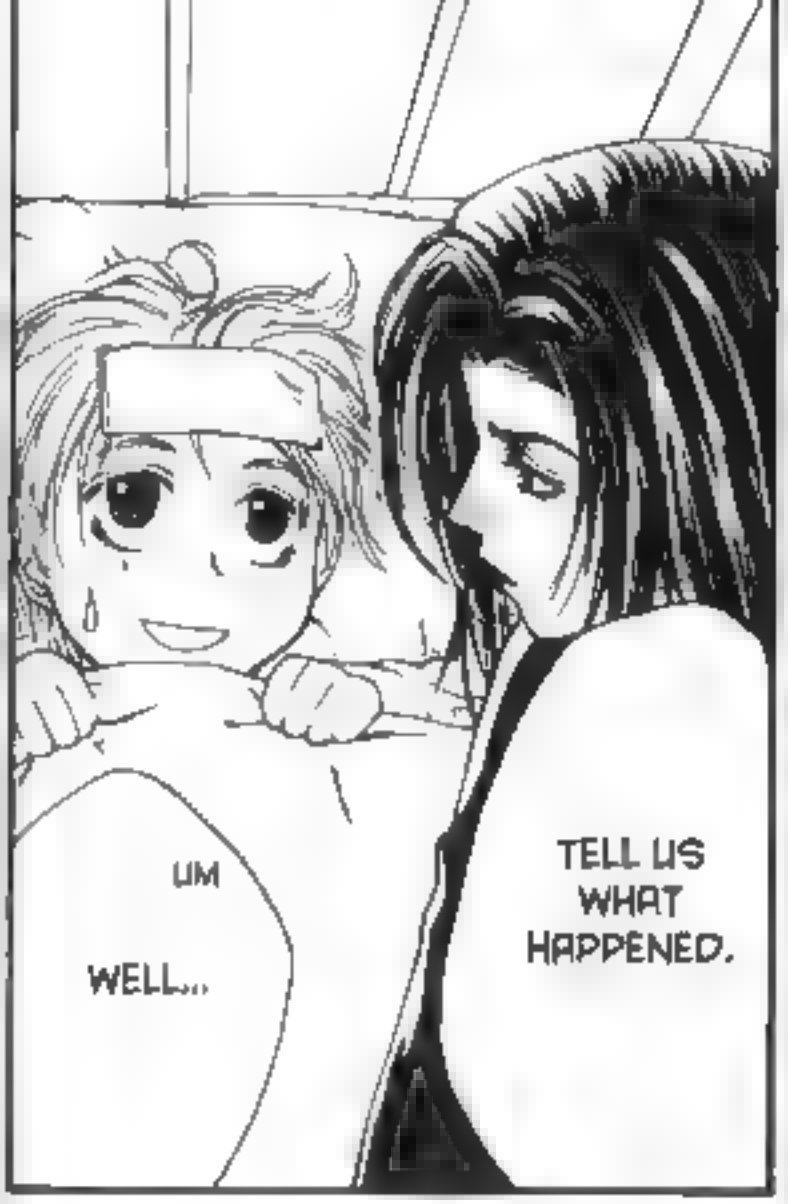
AS USUAL, THERE WERE HUGE PILES OF "I LOVE NARU!" LETTERS TO PROVE HIS APPEAL. BUT WHEN MONK-SAN'S TURN CAME, THE REACTION WAS EVEN MORE *FERVID.* IT WAS SMOKING HOT!!

UNTIL NOW, YOU'VE BEEN QUIET ABOUT HIM (ISN'T THAT RIGHT?). A TYPICAL LETTER SAID, "I WANT A MONK-SAN FOR A BROTHER." BUT THIS TIME, MONK-SAN'S FANS HELD A "SPONTANEOUS UPRISING"! ("PLEASE CHECK A DICTIONARY FOR WHAT THAT MEANS. ♥)

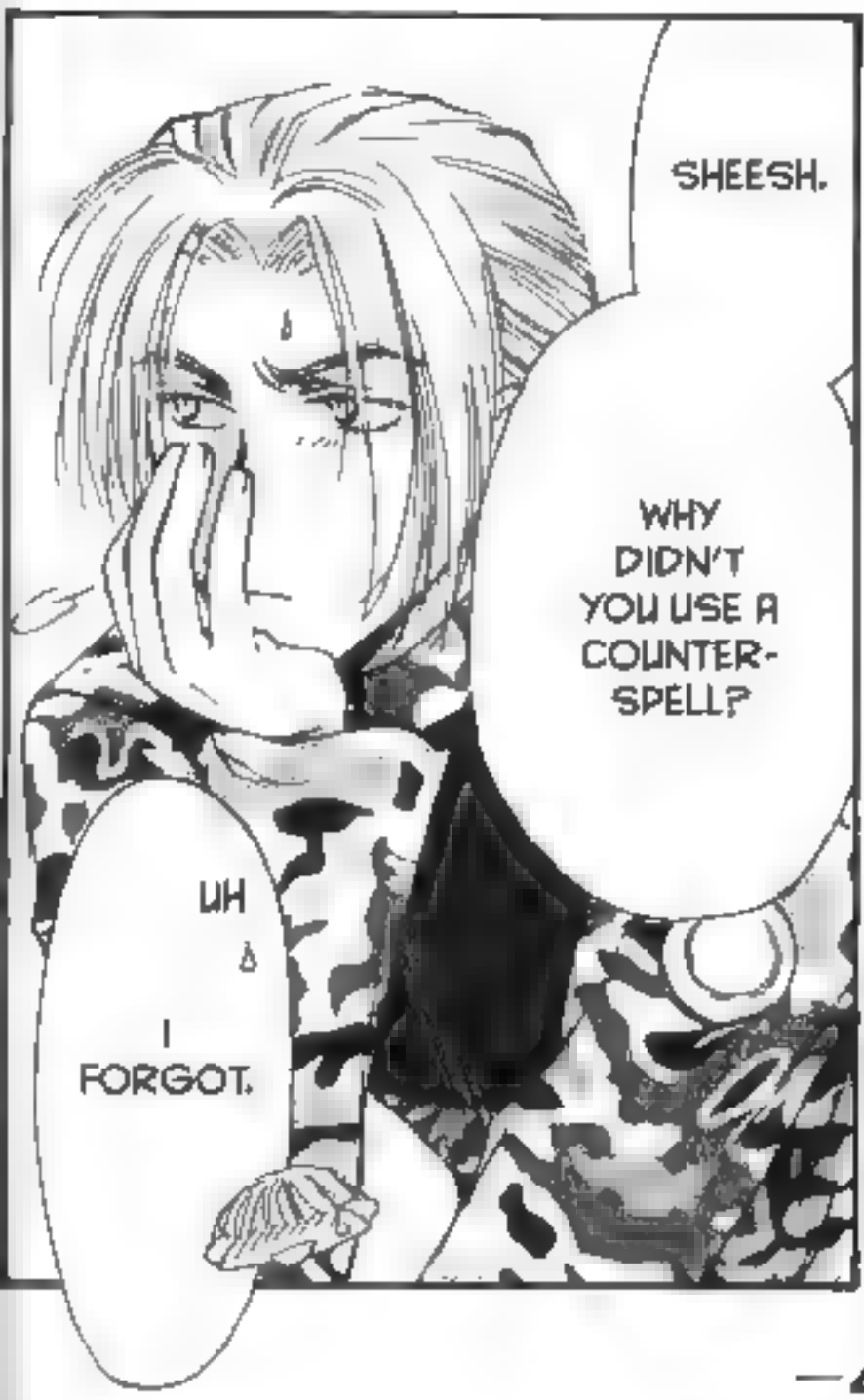
ON ANOTHER NOTE, YOU CAN SEE THIS STORY'S CLIENT PLAYING A ROLE ON THE FRONT COVER.

WHY IS THAT!?

TO BE CONTINUED!


UM
WELL...
TELL US WHAT HAPPENED.

I TOLD YOU, I TOLD YOU SO!
YOU KNEW NO ONE SHOULD GO OUT ALONE!
WHAT DO YOU HAVE TO SAY FOR YOURSELF, NARU?


SHEESH.
WHY DIDN'T YOU USE A COUNTER-SPELL?
UH
I FORGOT.

NO.
I THINK THEY'VE GONE.
CHILDREN'S SPIRITS, HUH.
MASAKO, ARE THEY STILL AROUND?

KLATTER
KLATTER
KLATTER
SLAM

WELL, NO HARM, NO FOUL. LET'S GET BACK TO BUSINESS.

MATSUZAKI-SAN, COULD YOU PLEASE WATCH OVER HER?

OOOO-KRK

STILL WOOZY?

YOU SHOULD GET MORE REST.

NN...

NOW, GOOD NIGHT.

I'LL BE RIGHT HERE.

ZZZ

COULD YOU STAY?

WHAT'S WRONG?

HMMM...
COULD THIS BE THE SAME DREAM?
I'LL JUST COLLECT SOME DATA.
NO, IT CAN'T BE. IT'S GOTTA BE A DIFFERENT ONE.
WHAT DOES O-INARI-SAN HAVE TO DO WITH THIS?

THAT'S WHAT I'LL DO.

HE'S HERE, TOO!?

IT'S EXTREMELY DANGEROUS HERE.

WAKE UP...AND GET OUT.

WAKE UP?

YOU MEAN, GET OUT OF THE NURSE'S OFFICE?

THUTHUMP

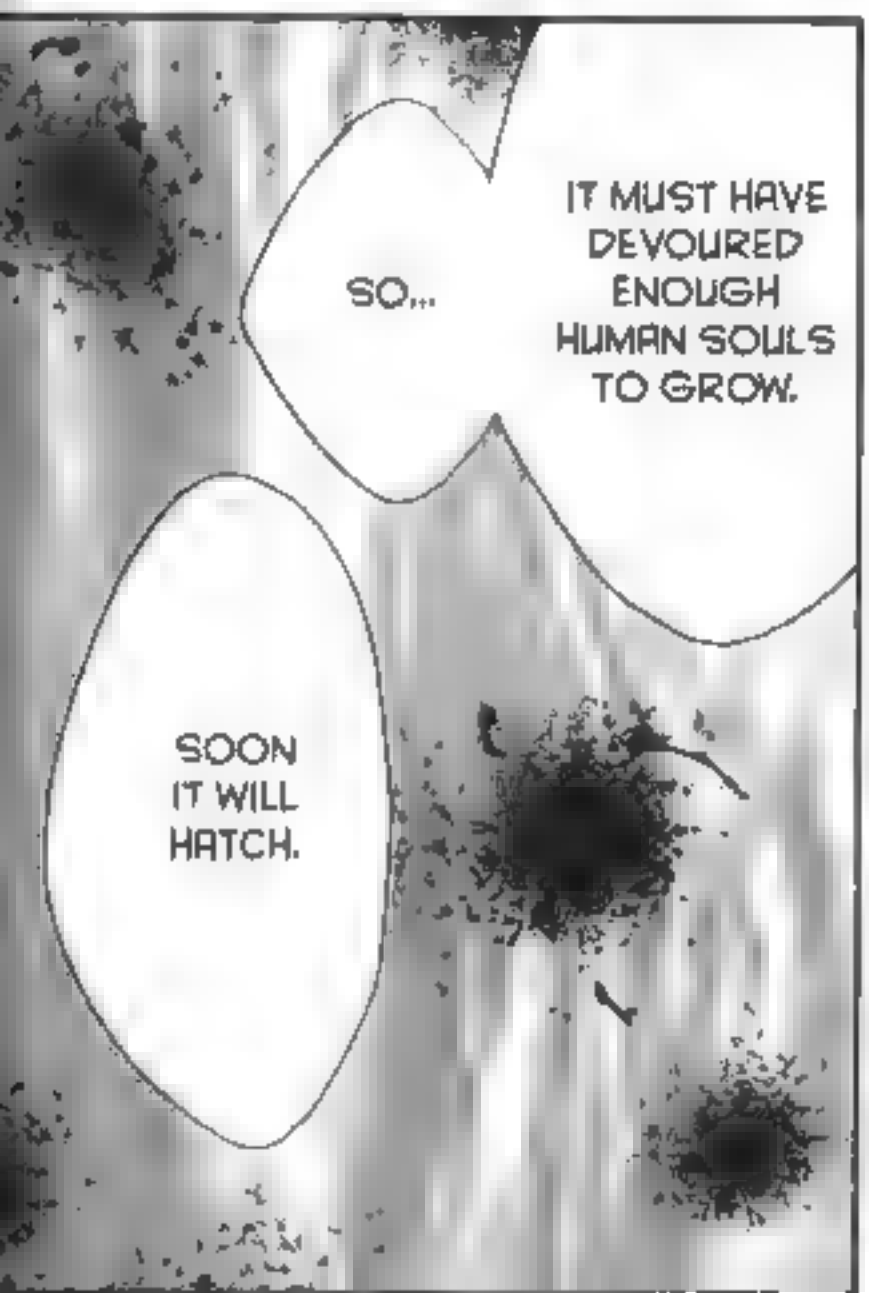
DANGEROUS.

IT'S...

ドクン

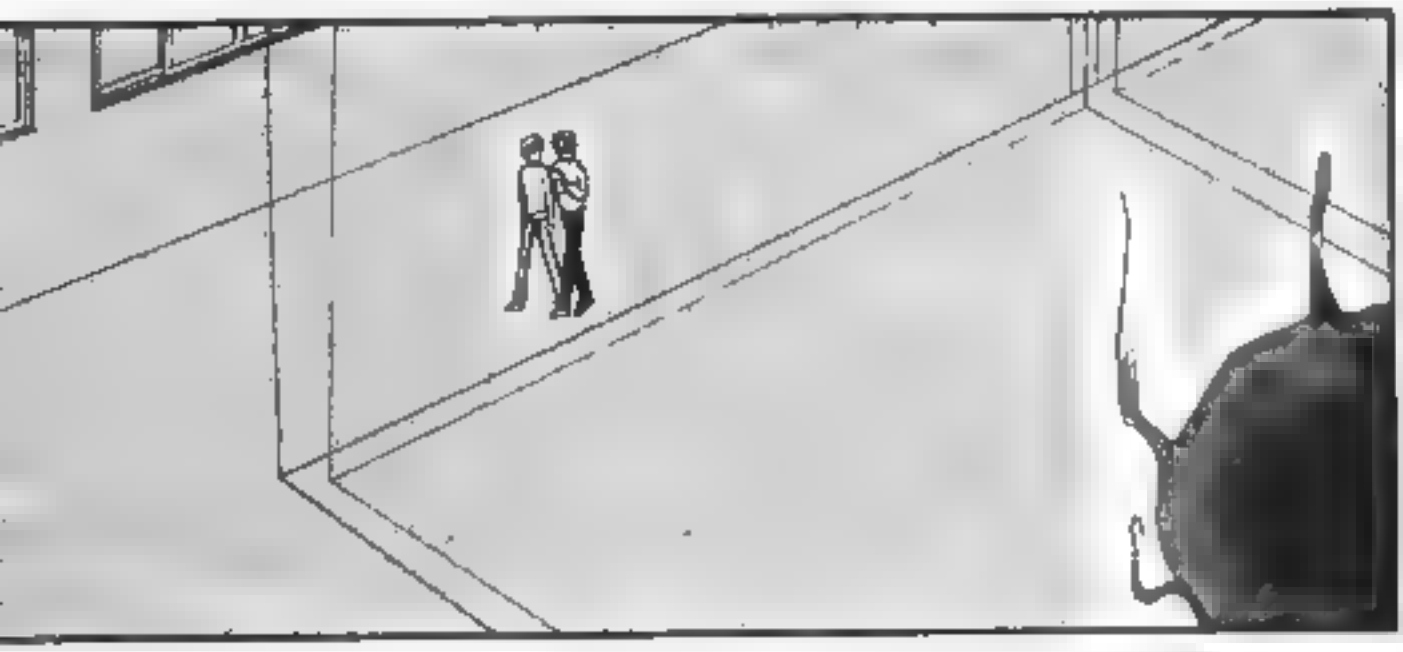
THUTHUMP

THUTHUMP



IT WOULD BE SMART TO GET OUT WHILE WE STILL CAN, WOULDN'T IT?
THERE ARE FOUR OF THEM HERE.
THERE'S EVEN ONE IN THE NURSE'S OFFICE.

RIGHT.



THAT'S YASUHARA-SAN AND JOHN.
LET'S CHECK THIS ROOM NEXT

AND WHEN IT DOES...
NO ONE WILL BE ABLE TO STOP IT.

NO WAY! ONE OF THOSE THINGS IS IN THERE, TOO?

I'VE GOTTA WARN THEM/ I'M GOING BACK!

GOOD.

WATCH YOURSELF.

BLINK

HEY! WHAT ARE YOU DOING, YOU IDIOT!

OOORRGHOOH

がば

GRPPP

WOOO

STAGGGGER

MAI!?

THAT THING IS WAITING..

WE'VE GOTTA WARN THEM.

THEY'RE IN DANGER!

JOHN AND YASUHARA-SAN ARE THERE, TOO!

AYAKO! THE FIRST FLOOR. IT'S IN THE PRINT SHOP!

HUH?

I REMEMBER, IT'S ACALA SOMETHING-SOMETHING!

SOME-THING-SOME-THING?

I'M OKAY! MONK-SAN TAUGHT ME THE COUNTER-SPELL.

I THINK...

BUT I CAN'T LEAVE YOU ALONE.

I'LL BE BACK AS SOON AS I CAN!

CHANT THEM AFTER YOU INVOKE ACALA.

SLAM

UGHH, I GOTTA GET BETTER FAST!

TAP

TAP

TAP

RIN PYOU TOU SHA KAI JIN RETSU ZAI ZEN. GOT IT?

I SEE. WELL THEN, REMEMBER THESE NINE WORDS TOO.

YES!

I HAVE TO WAVE MY HAND, TOO?

SWOOSH
IT'S HERE!!
!

"OVER THERE..."
WHAT KIND OF SPIRIT IS IT THIS TIME?
GRPPP

"THERE'S SOMEONE SLEEPING THERE!"
"IN THE SECOND BED."
RSTLE

CREAKKK

CREAKKK

IT'S HERE!

GIII

EEEEEK

M-MOVED!

IT...

GULP

I'LL BE OKAY.

I JUST HAVE TO COMPOSE MYSELF.

THE COUNTER-SPELL...

……ナウマク

サンマンダ

バザラダン

カン

ガバ

GANYAN

RIN

PYOU

TOU

フォオ

NAUMAKU
SANMANDA
BAZARADAN
KAN

NAUMAKU
SANMANDA
BAZARADAN

KAN

WHACKKK!
SHA...
OOOFI
KOFF
KOFF
KOFF
BAMMM
KOFF

THERE'S A CHILL IN THE AIR.

THE TEMPERATURE MUST BE DROPPING.

KOFF

STAGGER

BA-DUM

WHERE...

MAYBE I SHOULD GO OUTSIDE.

...DID IT GO?

.....

KLICKKK

KLATTER

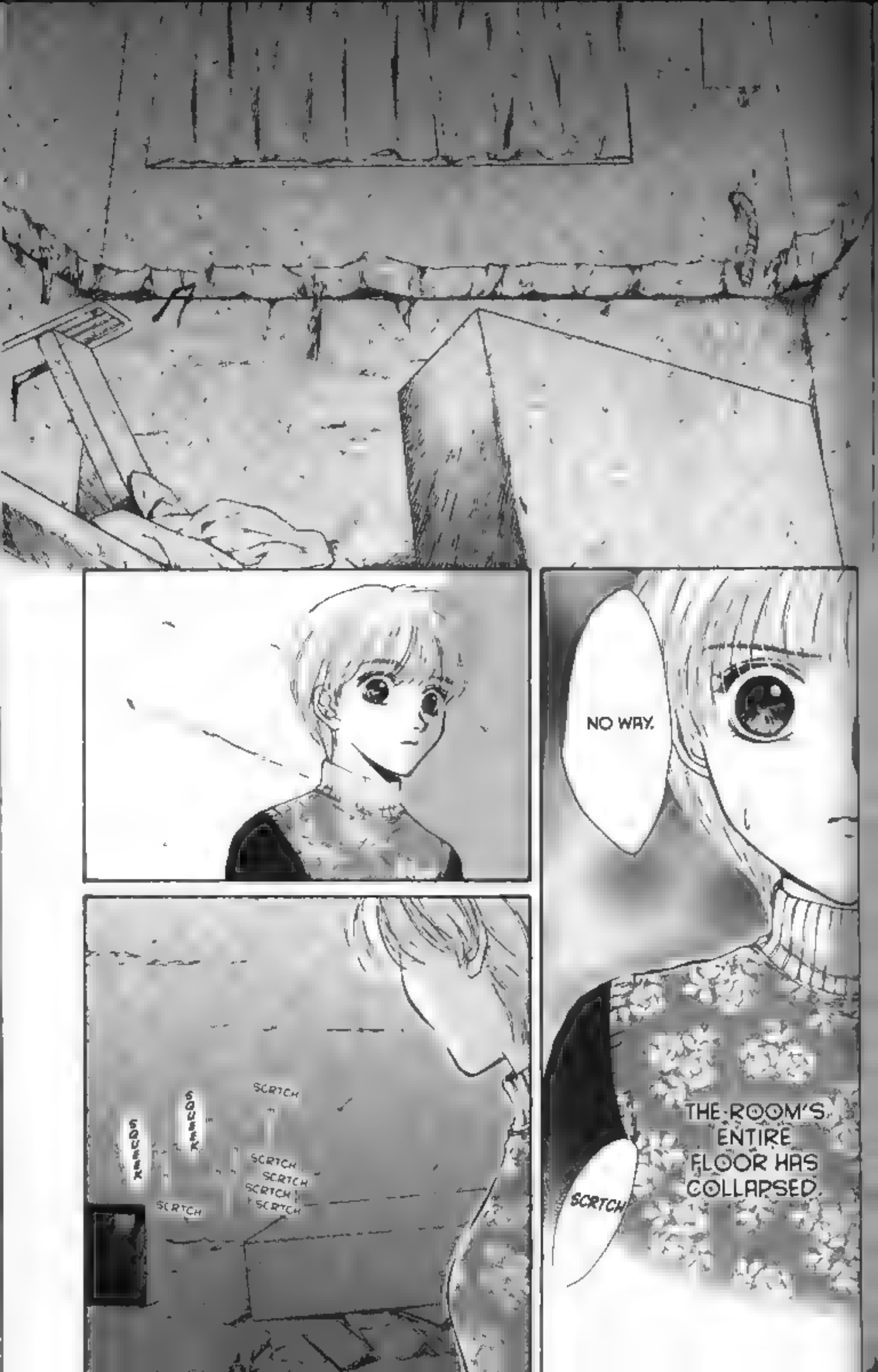
CREAAAK

BRAMMM
WHA—
!!!
WHOOOSH
WHOOOP
WHAT NOW...!
BAMMMMBRMMM

WHRMMM!

FWSHUUUM!

WHA—?
THE DOOR! WHERE IS IT!
がば
GASP!
HOW DID— HOW DID THIS HAPPEN!?
HO—
WHERE'S...


NO WAY.
THE ROOM'S ENTIRE FLOOR HAS COLLAPSED.
SCRTCH
SCRTCH
SQUEEK
SQUEEK
SCRTCH
SCRTCH
SCRTCH
SCRTCH
SCRTCH

SCRTCH
SQUEEK
SQUEEK
SQUEEK
SQUEEK

IS THAT A MOUSE?
SCRTCH
SCRTCH
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SCRTCH

IT'S SOMETHING ELSE COMPLETELY.

SQUEEK

THAT'S NO MOUSE

SCRTCH SCRTCH SCRTCH

SQUEEK

SCRTCH SCRTCH SCRTCH

IT'S NOTHING LIKE A MOUSE.

SCRTCH SCRTCH

SQUEEK

IF IT DOES...

NO

SCRTCH SCRTCH SCRTCH

WHAT IF IT COMES THIS WAY?

SQUEEK SQUEEK

SCRTCH SCRTCH SCRTCH

RATTLE!

MAI!?

NOOOOOOO!!

NARU!

I WISH I KNEW/

PISH!

WHAT HAPPENED?

THERE WAS THIS BIG NOISE, AND BEFORE I KNEW IT...

BWRSSK

BRRRRRK

THE FLOOR...

NARU!!
ZZZH
PWARA
PWARA
BRAAAAK
KRAAAK

GHOST HUNT 5
— A FORBIDDEN GAME —
FILE 6

BUT WHAT CAUSED THIS?

SAY SOME-THING/ ARE YOU OKAY!?

MAI!

MAI!!

SOME-THING'S WRONG— THE CEILING MUST'VE CAVED IN!

MAI

WHY DOES MY BACK FEEL SO HEAVY?

I'M OKAY.

GIII

IT'S WARM.

BLINK

PWARA

GASP

BI"

BOOMMMM

HUH?

WHAAAAAAT!!?

CONFERENCE ROOM

HOW IS IT THAT YOU ALWAYS MANAGE TO GET INJURED?

REALLY NOW.

IT'S ONLY BECAUSE THE BUILDING'S CEILING BOARDS ARE SO WEAK.

BUT-WHAT ABOUT THE CUTS ON YOUR FACE?

THE SAME GOES FOR NARU! YOU TWO ARE UNBELIEVABLE.

AT LEAST THESE INJURIES WILL HEAL.

I'M FINE!

SHOULDN'T YOU GO TO A HOSPITAL AND GET IT CHECKED OUT?

WOW, I CAN'T BELIEVE THE WHOLE CEILING CAVED IN.

SHOCKING.

IT'S NO BIG DEAL.

IF NARU HADN'T SHIELDED ME FROM THE COLLAPSE...
WAAAAAAAH!
FLUTTER
GASP
HMMPH!
UH
HEY, NOW.
STRONGER AND MORE BRUTAL.
SO YOU'RE SAYING THAT ENTITY HAS GOTTEN EVEN STRONGER?
A SPIRIT WOULD HAVE TO HAVE THE STRENGTH OF AN ARMY TO MAKE A WHOLE CEILING CAVE IN LIKE THAT.
THIS IS NO JOKE!
TURN

THAT VISION I HAD...
IT'S BEEN SLEEPING UNTIL NOW.
—IT...
...HATCHED.
HUH?
...MUST BE COMING TRUE AFTER ALL.
NO ONE...
THAT MEANS, NO ONE—
AND ONCE IT BUILT UP ENOUGH STRENGTH, IT MUST'VE HATCHED.

...CAN STOP IT.
WHAT!?
WE'RE GIVING UP?
RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE OF OUR INVESTIGATION?
AS BAD AS THINGS ARE, WE'RE JUST GONNA *LEAVE!?*
YEAH, WE DECIDED IN A MEETING.

SO YOU'VE DECIDED TO PACK UP AND LEAVE!?"

"THE SITUATION'S GOTTEN WORSE.

B-BUT...

THAT'S IMPOS-SIBLE!

FLPP

NARU! YOU'RE OKAY WITH THIS!?

WE TOLD OUR CLIENT

THAT WE WERE GIVING UP.

—BUT...

SLAM!

THOSE BLACK PHANTOM LIGHTS I SAW IN MY VISION.

BUT...

THAT THING IS STILL HERE.

ARE WE GOING TO IGNORE THEM?

IN THE END, ALL THAT'LL REMAIN WILL BE THE MOST POWERFUL SPIRIT EVER, RIGHT!?

...AND THEN IT'LL GROW EVEN STRONGER.

IT'LL STILL DEVOUR THE REMAINING SPIRITS.

IF WE LEAVE

WHAT

DID YOU JUST SAY?

YOU MEAN, "IT'LL STILL DEVOUR THE REMAINING SPIRITS, AND ALL THAT'LL REMAIN WILL BE THE MOST POWERFUL SPIRIT EVER"?

HUH.

YE

YES.

THAT'S IT.

MAYBE THIS IS ...

NA...

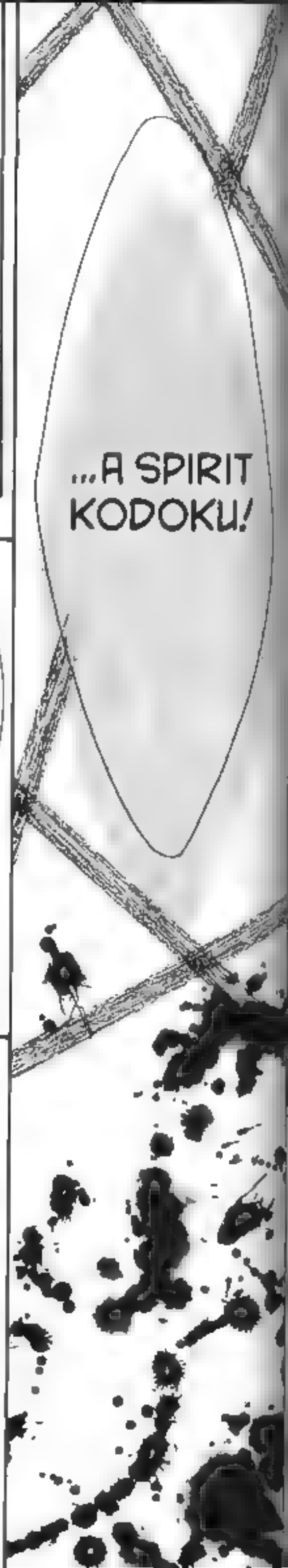
RU.

DID YOU SAY "KODOKU"?

!

A CURSE !?
IT'S A TYPE OF CURSE.

IT'S AN ANCIENT MAGICAL CURSE THAT CAME FROM CHINA.
BUT ITS USE IS PRETTY RARE THESE DAYS.


...A SPIRIT KODOKU!

BUT SOME CURSES EMPLOY A LIVING CREATURE. THAT KIND OF CURSE IS CALLED A KODOKU.

A CURSE USUALLY EMPLOYS AN INSTRUMENT—MOST OF THE TIME IT'S AN OBJECT, LIKE A FIGURINE OR A CHARM.

SNAKES, CENTIPEDES, AND SO ON.

HOWEVER, IT CAN USE OTHER CREATURES AS WELL.

A COMMON INSTRUMENT FOR A KODOKU IS AN INSECT—FOR EXAMPLE, THE INSECT THAT'S KNOWN AS KINSAN.

THAT LAST SURVIVING INSECT IS THE ONE THEY WOULD USE IN THE CURSE.

AFTER SOME MONTHS, HE WOULD DIG UP THE JAR, AND NEARLY ALL OF THE INSECTS WOULD HAVE DEVOURED ONE ANOTHER. BUT ALWAYS THERE WAS ONE REMAINING.

THE CONJURER OF THE CURSE WOULD FILL A JAR WITH THE INSECTS AND BURY IT IN THE GROUND.

OR ELSE BE DEVOURED BY THE CURSED INSECT.

GROSS!

BUT AT A PRICE: EVERY SO OFTEN, THE CONJURER WOULD HAVE TO BRING IT A HUMAN SACRIFICE

THE INSECT WOULD BRING GREAT PROSPERITY TO THE CONJUROR'S HOUSE.

IF ALL OF THOSE RICHES WERE JUST LAYING AROUND IN THE STREET, COULDN'T JUST ANYONE TAKE THEM?

B-BUT...

THIS IS THE INSECT THAT'S CALLED KAKINSAN, OR THE "DOWRY INSECT."

HE WOULD CAST INTO THE STREET ALL OF THE RICHES IT HAD BROUGHT TO HIS HOUSE.

IF THE MASTER COULDN'T TAKE CARE OF THE INSECT ANY MORE...

ANYONE WHO TRIED WOULDN'T KNOW ABOUT THIS CURSE.

AND WOULD HIMSELF BE DEVOURED.

WHOA.

THEY WOULD SEND A CURSED INSECT, ALONG WITH TREASURES OF SILVER AND GOLD, TO THE DESPICABLE PERSON.

THE CLUELESS RECIPIENT WOULDN'T KNOW HOW TO CARE FOR THE INSECT.

THAT'S HOW SOME CONJURERS ALSO USED THIS CURSE TO KILL THEIR ENEMIES.

AND THE INSECT WOULD DEVOUR HIM.

WAIT!

THE STORY CONTINUED/

THE DOOR PICTURES OFTEN INCLUDE PROMOTIONAL TEXT OR "BLURBS." USUALLY IT'S SOME SHORT TEXT LIKE "MA/'S IN DIRE TROUBLE/" OR SOMETHING LIKE THAT.

MY EDITOR DREAMS UP THESE PROMOTIONAL BLURBS. SO, THIS WAS THE ONE FOR MONK-SAN'S DOOR PICTURE:

"THE OLD MAN'S EYEGLASSES TURNS HIM INTO AN OLD DANDY/ TEN YEARS FROM NOW, MAYBE YOU CAN 'PLAY' WITH HIM. ♡"

THE GIRLS WHO READ THIS (AND THEIR OLDER SISTERS) WROTE ME SO MANY LETTERS, SAYING

"I'M NOT WAITING TEN YEARS/ I WANT TO PLAY WITH HIM NOW!!"

...BRAVO, EDITOR-SAN/

UNLIKE ME, YOU KNOW HOW TO PULL YOUNG GIRLS' HEARTSTRINGS.

NEVERTHELESS, MONK-SAN IS STILL THE CHARACTER THAT MOST FANS WANT AS A BROTHER OR FATHER— NOT AS A BOYFRIEND.

—AND THAT'S GREAT/ DON'T EVER CHANGE WHO YOU LOVE/ RIGHT, MR. POPULARITY?

SO IT MUST BE A KODOKU.

WAIT A MINUTE/ IF THE ENTITIES TRAPPED HERE ARE DEVOURING ONE ANOTHER

THEN THE SAME THING WILL HAPPEN IN THIS SCHOOL/

WITH SPIRITS DEVOURING ONE ANOTHER INSTEAD OF INSECTS.

WHAT DO WE DO?

THEN THAT MEANS

WHEN THEY'VE FINISHED, WHAT WILL REMAIN IS THE MOST POWERFUL SPIRIT OF ALL.

BUT IF IT WAS AN ACCIDENT...

...THEN THE LAST LIVING INSECT COULD BE USED AS A WEAPON.

I DON'T KNOW.

BUT I THINK IF IT WAS INDEED DONE ON PURPOSE...

HMM.

I CAN'T SAY WHAT WILL HAPPEN.

IF IT'S JUST A COINCIDENCE THAT THIS SCHOOL HAPPENS TO BE "SEALED OFF," SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING, FROM THE REST OF THE WORLD

EVERY SO OFTEN, IT HAS TO FEED ON A HUMAN.

WON'T IT STILL NEED TO DEVOUR SOMETHING, EVEN WHEN IT'S TRAPPED IN THE SCHOOL?

IF THE MOST POWERFUL SPIRIT SURVIVES

BUT WHO IS...

IF ITS HUNGER CAN'T BE SATISFIED, IT WILL TURN ON ITS MASTER.

THEN THAT'S OUR IMMEDIATE PROBLEM.

HOLD ON!

WHO COULD IT BE?

IT MUST BE ALL THE STUDENTS WHO INVOKED THE SPIRITS.

THAT'S IT.

ITS MASTER?

THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE.

WHAT CAN WE DO?

THAT'S...

INCLUDING YASUHARA-SAN!

THEY'RE NOT EVEN AWARE THAT IT EXISTS, RIGHT!?

IT WILL DEVOUR THEM ALL.

!

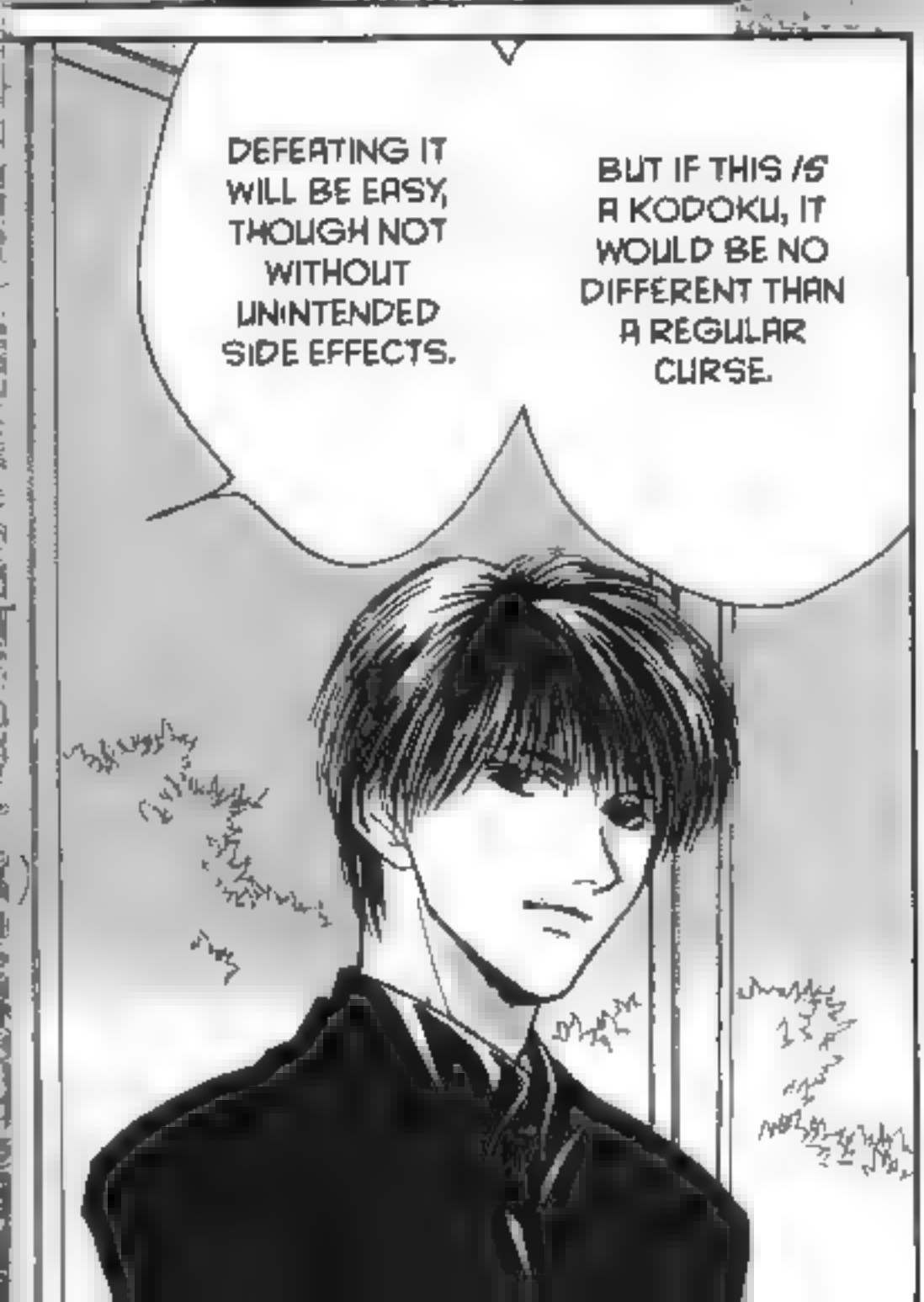
HOWEVER.

AND THERE'S NOTHING WE CAN DO.

RIGHT, NARU!?

WHAT IS IT?
LIN-SAN.

LIN-?


DEFEATING IT WILL BE EASY, THOUGH NOT WITHOUT UNINTENDED SIDE EFFECTS.
BUT IF THIS *IS* A KODOKU, IT WOULD BE NO DIFFERENT THAN A REGULAR CURSE.

IT'S TRUE THAT A KODOKU IS A PRETTY OBSCURE CURSE.
EVEN *WE* HAVEN'T ENCOUNTERED ONE BEFORE.

TRANSFERRING IT TO SOMEONE, OR AGREEING TO CARE FOR IT.
RIGHT.

WE HAVE TWO OPTIONS FOR RELEASING THE KODOKU.

NO WAY.
WE DON'T EVEN KNOW FOR SURE THAT IT *IS* A KODOKU.

TCK
TCK
IF WE EXPEL THIS THING, IT'LL GET OUT OF THE SCHOOL.
NARU...
I HOPE HE CAN CONVINCE THE PRINCIPAL.
IF THIS IS A CURSE, LIN WILL DEAL WITH IT.
WE'VE BARELY STARTED TO EXAMINE IT.
SO WHAT DO YOU THINK WE SHOULD LOOK INTO FIRST—
DON'T WORRY. NARU-BOU WILL HANDLE IT.
CREAK

WHOA!

WHACKKK!

YOU DON'T HAVE ONE TO USE EVEN IF YOU WANTED TO.

LOOK WHO'S TALKING!

GRRRRRR

TRY USING YOUR BRAIN.

YEAH.

LIKE THOSE "ADULTS."

IT'S BETTER THAN WASTING OUR TIME.

SO WHY DON'T WE REVIEW WHAT WE ALREADY KNOW?

WATCH MY DELICATE HEAD!!

STOP IT ALREADY!

PLEASE, STOPPPP!

DO YOU EVEN KNOW WHAT "DELICATE" MEANS!?

YOU, DIOT. DIOT. I-DI-OT!

RIGHT.

THAT BARRIER TRAPPED THE SPIRITS.

THE SCHOOL HAPPENED TO BE LOCATED INSIDE A SPIRITUAL BARRIER.

AND LIKE THE INSECTS IN A KODOKU, THE SPIRITS DEVOURED ONE ANOTHER.

OKAY.

KOKKURI-SAN FIRST BECAME POPULAR HERE AROUND THE TIME SUMMER VACATION ENDED.

AFTER THAT, SPIRITS BEGAN FLOODING THE SCHOOL.

ハハハハハハ…

HAHAHAHA

SOMETHING LIKE THAT.

JUST AN ORDINARY MESSAGE GAME, RIGHT?

UH-HUH.

OKAY, I'M SORRY! FORGIVE ME.

BUT THE DRAWING USED HERE WAS A LITTLE ODD.

THE INCANTATIONS USED IN KOKKURI-SAN DON'T CHANGE THAT MUCH FROM REGION TO REGION.

I THINK SO.

BUT IT SEEMS OUR ORIKIRI-SAMA WAS DIFFERENT. THE WAY IT WAS CONJURED WAS UNUSUAL.

PLUS, THE WORD "DEMON" WAS SCRAWLED OVER AND OVER IN A CIRCLE.

INSTEAD, IT HAD SOME KIND OF FIGURE OR PATTERN THERE.

HMM

BUT THERE'S USUALLY A SHRINE GATE IN THE CENTER. WHY NOT HERE?

IT HAS THE USUAL FIFTY CHARACTERS, THE NUMBERS, AND THE WORDS "YES" AND "NO."

THAT'S IT!

鬼 鬼 鬼 鬼 鬼 鬼 鬼 鬼 鬼 鬼 鬼

HUH?

A DEMON?

UH, YASUHARA-SAN, DO YOU REMEMBER?
UM.
WHA–
WHAT KIND?
WHAT KIND OF FIGURE WAS IT?
LIN-SAN, WHAT ARE YOU...

DID THE INCANTATION HAVE THIS WRITTEN ON IT?
WHEN YOU INVOKED ORIKIRI-SAMA,
HMMM
I DID IT TOO, BUT IT WAS ONLY ONCE.

ON ORIKIRITE! MEIRITE! MEIWAYA SHIMARE! SO-WAKA—

THAT'S IT!

AFTERWARD, IT MUST BE BURIED AT A SHRINE.

THAT'S RIGHT. YOU CAN ONLY USE IT ONE TIME.

AND WAS THE PAPER BURIED SOMEWHERE AFTER IT WAS USED?

A SHRINE?

A SHRINE.

YOU KNOW ABOUT THAT?

WITH A SMALL GATE AND CERAMIC FOXES?

BY ANY CHANCE, IS THERE A TINY SHRINE NEARBY?

UM...

PROBABLY.

CAN WE RETRIEVE THIS PAPER?

I DID IT AGAIN!

OF COURSE I WOULD

SLAM

WHAT IS HE PLANNING?

I HAVE NO IDEA.

I'LL ASK SOME STUDENTS.

PLEASE WAIT A MOMENT.

THE DOOR PICTURE STORY BONUS

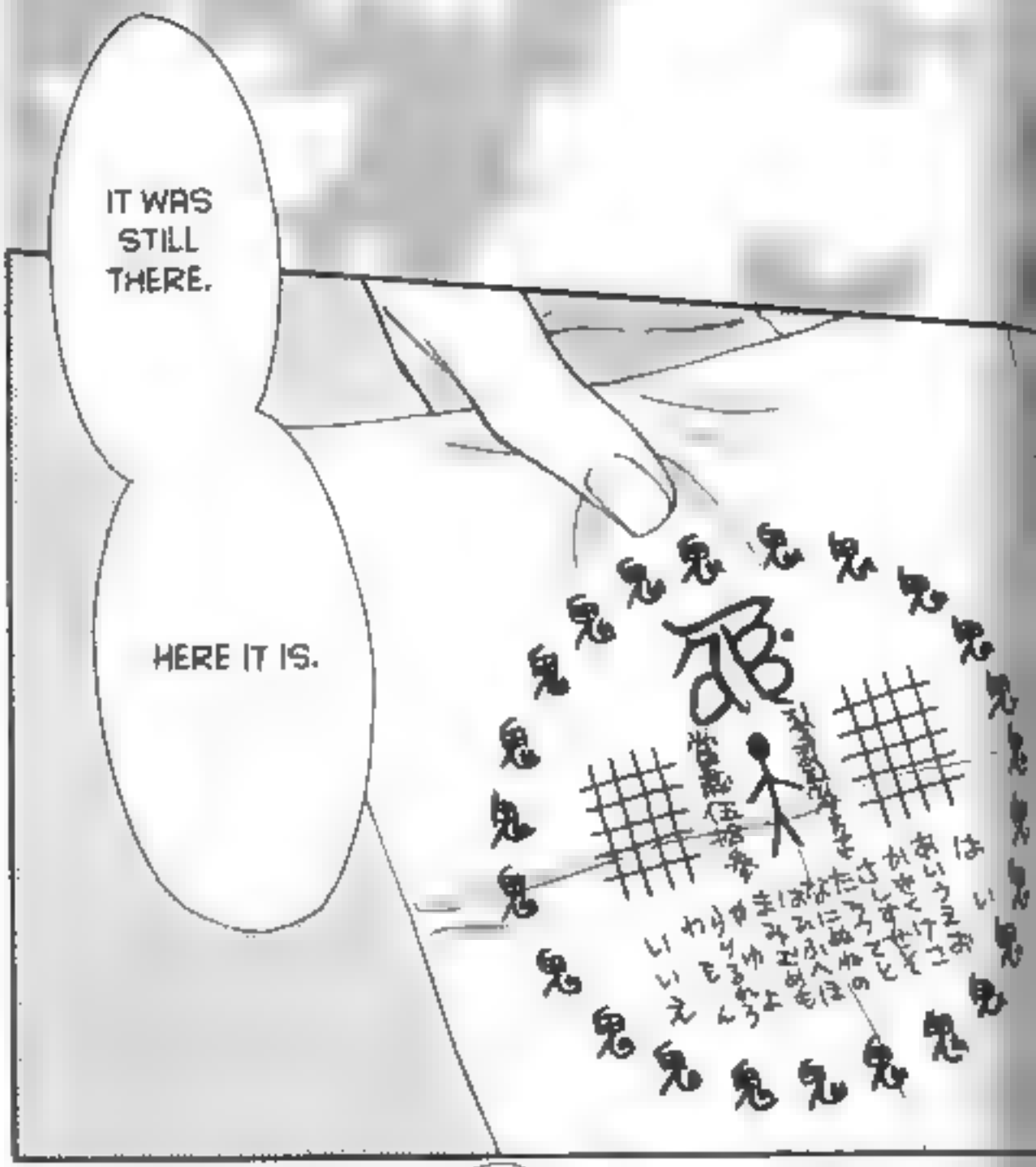
BONUS PICTURES:
I DRAW "BONUSES" TO PLEASE FANS WHO MIGHT OTHERWISE GET ANGRY.

I SERIALIZED THIS STORY ARC IN EIGHT CHAPTER INSTALLMENTS. CHAPTER 1'S DOOR PICTURE, SINCE IT WAS THE FIRST ONE, WAS OF THE LEAD, MA. AFTER THAT, I DREW EACH CHARACTER ONE BY ONE, IN ORDER OF PROMINENCE. I STARTED THE EYEGLASSES SERIES FROM THE SECOND CHAPTER:

FILE 2 MAI AND YOUNG YASUHARA
FILE 3 NARU
FILE 4 MONK-SAN
FILE 5 AYAKO
FILE 6 JOHN
FILE 7 MASAKO
FILE 8 SHOULD HAVE BEEN LIN-SAN'S TURN BUT 8 WAS THE FINAL CHAPTER. SO NATURALLY, I HAD TO DRAW A LEAD AGAIN (MAI OR NARU)/

SO LIN-SAN'S FANS WERE CRUSHED.

TO THOSE WHO ARE CONFUSED, I WANT TO SAY "I'M S-SORRY/" WITH THE LAST INSTALLMENT OF THE EYEGLASS SERIES. ON THIS COMPILATION VOLUME'S BACK COVER FLAP, I DREW THE "EYEGLASSES SERIES FINALE. LIN-SAN'S CHAPTER." I HOPE THIS MAKES YOU HAPPY/



FOR DEMENTIA, THE CROSS-ROADS.
FOR MURDER, UNDER THE SHRINE.
鬼
THIS IS A CURSED CHARM.
ONE THAT WORKS BY BURYING IT UNDERNEATH A SHRINE.

IT IS A CURSE TO COMMIT MURDER.

MURDER!?

IT'S A CURSE?

.....

BUT IF YOU BURY IT UNDER A SHRINE, YOU CAN KILL SOMEONE.

YES.

IF YOU BURY IT AT A CROSS-ROADS, YOU CAN DRIVE SOMEONE MAD.

WITH THE UNSUSPECTING STUDENTS CARRYING IT OUT.

SO THIS KOKKURI-SAN WAS BEING USED AS A TOOL TO SPREAD THE CURSE.

RUSTLE

SO.

SHIVER

WITH JUST THIS SINGLE SHEET, YOU COULD KILL ANYONE.

THEY DID EVERYTHING FROM MAKING THE CHARM TO ACTUALLY PERFORMING THE CURSE.

EVERY DAY, THE STUDENTS WERE INNOCENTLY MAKING THE CHARMS AND PERFORMING THE RITUALS.

IT JUST SO HAPPENED THAT THIS WAS USED AS A MEANS OF POSSESSION TO GATHER SPIRITS. AND AS A RESULT...

ONCE THE KODOKU IS COMPLETE, WHAT WILL HAPPEN?

THAT IS WHAT I SUSPECT.

FULFILLING AN ASPECT OF THE KODOKU.

HIDEHARU MATSUYAMA-SHI.

THIS PERSON WILL DIE.

"THIS PERSON"?

FILE 7

GHOST HUNT 5

—A FORBIDDEN GAME—

MATSUYAMA.

UH...

WHAT DOES THAT...

RATTLE

AS IN *THAT* MATSUYAMA-SENSEI?

MATSUYAMA-SENSEI

DO ME A FAVOR AND PACK YOUR THINGS AND GO.

THERE'S NOTHING LEFT FOR YOU TO DO.

AREN'T YOU READY TO LEAVE YET?

SENSEI, I THINK THAT YOU SHOULD YOU *HEAR* THIS.

WHAT?

YOU IDI—

IS THIS ABOUT YOUR FEES?

WHAT'S WITH THIS OLD JERK!

WHAT'S LEFT TO DISCUSS?

HMM.

I'M TERRIBLY SORRY, BUT THERE'S SOMETHING ELSE WE NEED TO TALK ABOUT.

WHAT'S THIS?

NEVER MIND, JUST LEAVE NOW.

DON'T YOU DARE TRY TO TRICK ME.

RUSTLE

A CURSED CHARM?

IT'S A CURSED CHARM.

SO?

THIS IS USED IN KOKKURI-SAN.

IT SEEMS THAT SOMEONE HAS INTRODUCED A NEW, DECEPTIVE FORM OF KOKKURI-SAN.

SENSEI, ARE YOU AWARE THAT KOKKURI-SAN IS POPULAR IN YOUR SCHOOL?

WELL...

IT'S JUST A SILLY GAME.

ORIKIRI-SAMA

FANS OFTEN ASK ME THIS QUESTION: "CAN YOU REALLY INVOKE ORIKIRI-SAMA?" IF I HAD TO RESPOND, I WOULD SAY

"I HAVE NO IDEA."

THERE ARE PROBABLY PEOPLE WHO WILL TRY IT ANYWAYS (OR WHO HAVE ALREADY TRIED IT). SO I'LL TELL YOU A SECRET: THE ORIKI-SAMA PAPER USED IN THIS MANGA IS A FAKE. (I SAY THIS EVEN THOUGH SOME PEOPLE WILL STILL PROBABLY IGNORE ME AND TRY TO USE IT ANYWAY.)

IF ORIKI-SAMA COULD BE INVOKED, I THINK ONLY A DESPICABLE PERSON WHO'D WANT TO USE IT RECKLESSLY FOR CURSES WOULD DO SO. ON THE OTHER HAND, IT WOULD BE FUN TO HAVE SO MUCH ENERGY AT YOUR FINGERTIPS (IF YOU THINK THE ACT OF CURSING PEOPLE IS THE FUN PART, MAN, DON'T TALK TO ME.) THAT'S WHAT I'M TRYING TO SAY.

IF YOU'RE ALWAYS PREOCCUPIED WITH HATEFUL AND WICKED PEOPLE, I THINK YOU'LL BECOME WICKED YOURSELF (SHOCK LINES) NOW THAT WAS A WICKED THING TO SAY ^_^ //

IF YOU CURSE OTHER PEOPLE, YOU JUST MIGHT HAVE THE CURSE REVERSED UPON YOU. ^_^

HMMM... ^_^ THIS IS A TOUGH CALL.

IF YOU'RE ONLY HALF-SERIOUS AND DON'T CURSE PEOPLE, GO AHEAD AND TRY IT!

TAKIGAWA-SAN.

UH, YOU'RE USING MY REAL NAME?

CAN YOU READ SANSKRIT?

WELL, ENOUGH TO GET BY.

UH-HUH.

WHY ME?

YES, SIR.

ISN'T THAT RIGHT, LIN?

WHOA, S THAT REALLY SAN-SKR T?

IT SAYS "WRITE THE NAME OF THE CURSED VICTIM HERE."

PLEASE READ WHAT IT SAYS HERE ON THE RIGHT.

I CAN MAKE OUT THE NAME "HIDEAKI MATSUYAMA."

WHA—

I SEE.

ALSO, THE LEFT SIDE LISTS AN AGE.
NARU, CAN YOU READ IT?
I'M TERRIBLE AT READING KANJI.
SANSKRIT IS COMPLETELY UNNECESSARY FOR PLAYING KOKKURI-SAN.
IT MEANS, "53 YEARS OLD THIS YEAR."
BUT IT SAYS, "TOU SAI GO JUU SAN."
.....
THAT'S ABOUT YOUR AGE, ISN'T IT?

IF "MATSUYAMA" HAD BEEN WRITTEN THIS CLEARLY, ANYONE COULD HAVE GUESSED SOMETHING WAS GOING ON.

GOOD THING FOR US THAT THE AGE, AT LEAST, WAS WRITTEN

IN THIS STANDARD, LEGIBLE WAY.

WITHIN THE ART CLUB AND FIRST-YEAR STUDENTS.

INVOKING ORIKIRI-SAMA BECAME POPULAR

I WONDER WHY IT WAS DELIBERATELY WRITTEN IN SANSKRIT?

WHO COULD HAVE DONE THIS?

WHO...

WAIT.

!

THIS IS CLEARLY A PERSON TO BE RECKONED WITH.

BUT NOT EVERYONE IS CAPABLE OF PERFORMING THIS CURSE EASILY.

DON'T YOU REALIZE WHY YOU WERE CHOSEN?

SAKAUCHI-KUN.

WHAT WAS THAT IDIOT TRYING TO DO!?

WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU...

WAS IT SAKAUCHI !?

"I'M NOT A DOG."

THAT'S ALL THAT WAS IN SAKAUCHI-KUN'S SUICIDE NOTE.

ANY OF US COULD HAVE WRITTEN THIS ABOUT YOU, SENSEI.

...ALL FELT THIS SCHOOL TREATED US LIKE WE WERE DOGS.

WE...

YASUHARA.

*—SAKAUCHI

WHY ARE YOU STILL CLINGING TO THAT BOOK!?

SENSEI, YOU REPRESENT ALL THAT'S WRONG WITH THIS SCHOOL.

"IN THE TIME YOU WASTED READING THAT WORTHLESS JUNK, YOU COULD HAVE READ A WHOLE TEXTBOOK!"

IF YOU'D JUST LET GO OF THAT SUPERSTITIOUS CROCK, YOU MIGHT BECOME A NORMAL PERSON!"

IT WON'T MAKE A DIFFERENCE IF WE ROOT OUT THE PERPETRATOR'S NOW.

ONCE THEY'VE INVOKED THE CURSE, IT CAN'T BE STOPPED.

IS IT POSSIBLE TO REVERSE THE CURSE?

BUT SHOULD WE?

WE COULD.

NONE SO FAR.

ANY SOLUTIONS ?

THEN...

WHAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN!?

WE'LL REVERSE THE CURSE.

BUT IF EVERYONE TRULY UNDERSTOOD WHAT DEATH MEANS, NO ONE WOULD EVER COMMIT SUICIDE.

DEATH MAY SOOTHE A SOUL'S PAIN.

WE DON'T HAVE A CHOICE.

ONCE THE LAST SPIRIT HAS DEVOURED EVERYTHING

IF THAT HAPPENS, DEATH AWAITS MATSUYAMA.

TIME WILL RUN OUT AND THE KODOKU WILL BE COMPLETE.

REVERSE THE CURSE...?

IN OTHER WORDS, TURN THE CURSE BACK ONTO THE ORIGINAL CONJURERS.

BEFORE WE LET THAT HAPPEN...
HA HA HA
HA HA/ YOU'RE...
HA HA/ YOU ARE/
YOU'RE GOING TO HELP ME?
HA...
SENSEI.
I WON'T DIE AFTER ALL.
HA HA HA
THAT INGRATE!
THAT WOULD BE CRUEL.
EVEN FOR HIM.
PLEASE KEEP THAT IN MIND.
THIS IS ALL YOUR FAULT.

BUT, NARU-CHAN.

SAKAUCHI IS ALREADY DEAD. HOW CAN WE REVERSE THE CURSE BACK ONTO A DEAD PERSON?

IT'S TRUE, WE CAN'T REVERSE A CURSE ONTO A DEAD MAN.

.....

IF WE REVERSE THE CURSE, THE CURSE IS REFLECTED BACK TO THE ORIGINAL CONJURER.

BUT ANYWAY...

HE'S NOT THE ONE WHO INVOKED THE CURSE IN THE FIRST PLACE.

BUT IF WE DON'T KNOW WHO THAT IS...

HUH?

THE STUDENTS WERE THE ONES WHO INVOKED THE CURSE.
THE STUDENTS?
WHA...
WAIT.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
INVOKED THE CURSE?

WILL TURN ON THE STUDENTS?

THOSE PHANTOM LIGHTS...

WON'T REVERSING THE CURSE HARM THE ORIGINAL CONJURERS

YES.

NO!

STOP IT, NARU! THIS IS WRONG!

WOULD YOU RATHER SEE MATSUYAMA DIE?

YOU'RE THE ONE WHO'S WRONG.

IF THEY ARE NOT PUNISHED, THEN BY LAW, WE WILL BE ACCOMPLICES IN MURDER.

THOSE CLUELESS STUDENTS INVOKED THE CURSE.

I REALIZE THAT THIS IS ALL THAT PERSON'S FAULT.

BUT WE MUST DO WHAT IS FAIR. EVEN WITH REGRET.

WE'LL BE REVERSING THE CURSE UPON THE STUDENTS.

IF YOU REVERSE THE CURSE, WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO US?

SHIBUYA-SAN.

BUT...

THERE HAS TO BE ANOTHER WAY.

WE ALL SHOULD VOTE ON THIS.

SOME "REGRET"!

I'M AFRAID NOT.

LET'S PRAY THAT'S TRUE.

SO MANY THAT I THINK THE POWER OF THE CURSE REVERSAL WILL BE SPLIT, AND THE EFFECT ON EACH PERSON WILL BE LIMITED.

A LOT OF PEOPLE INVOKED THE CURSE.

HE'S THE ONLY ONE WHO'LL GO UNPUNISHED/?

WHY SAVE HIM AT THE EXPENSE OF EVERYONE ELSE/?

WHAT ABOUT MATSUYAMA/?

IN THAT CASE, I AGREE.

NO MATTER HOW DESPICABLE SOMEONE MAY BE, THAT'S NOT A GOOD ENOUGH REASON TO KILL HIM.

THAT'S JUST WRONG/

BUT NONE OF THEM UNDERSTOOD THE CONSEQUENCES/

EVERYONE MUST TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR HIS OR HER OWN ACTIONS.

THERE'S NO GOOD REASON FOR US TO KILL EVERYONE ELSE, EITHER/

IGNORANCE IS NO EXCUSE.

.....

.....

.....

.....

IT IS AN HONOR TO BE DESPISED BY FOOLS.

LIN, BEGIN THE PREPA-RATIONS.

YES, SIR.

NARU, I HATE EVERYTHING YOU STAND FOR!

RATTLE

SLAM

I KNOW NARU IS RIGHT, MORE OR LESS.

I UNDERSTAND.

MAI, YOU SEE...

.....

I DON'T CARE IF HE CALLS ME A FOOL.

I'M NOT JUST GOING TO SAY "YES" TO EVERYTHING NARU SAYS.

BUT...

NOW, NOW

STOP HIM.

THERE'S NOTHING MORE WE CAN DO.

THERE'S NO OTHER WAY.

HUH?

IT'S STILL NOT RIGHT.

MAI!

WHAT DO YOU MEAN, "STOP NARU"?

WHAT NARU SAID WAS RIGHT.

GOING TO STOP NARU!

I'M

BUT...

EVERYONE MUST TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR HIS OR HER OWN ACTIONS.

WE CAN'T! NO WAY!

EVEN IF THEY UNDERSTOOD THE WRONG THEY AFFLICT, HOW DO WE REVERSE THE CURSE ON ALL OF THEM?

EVEN IF THERE WERE NO REASON TO HATE MATSUYAMA-SENSEI ENOUGH TO MURDER HIM,

HOW DO WE TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR THAT!?

.....
HUH
HUH
HUH
THERE HAS TO BE ANOTHER WAY!
ISN'T THAT LIN-SAN'S CAR?
WHERE...
GASP
WHERE DID HE GO!?

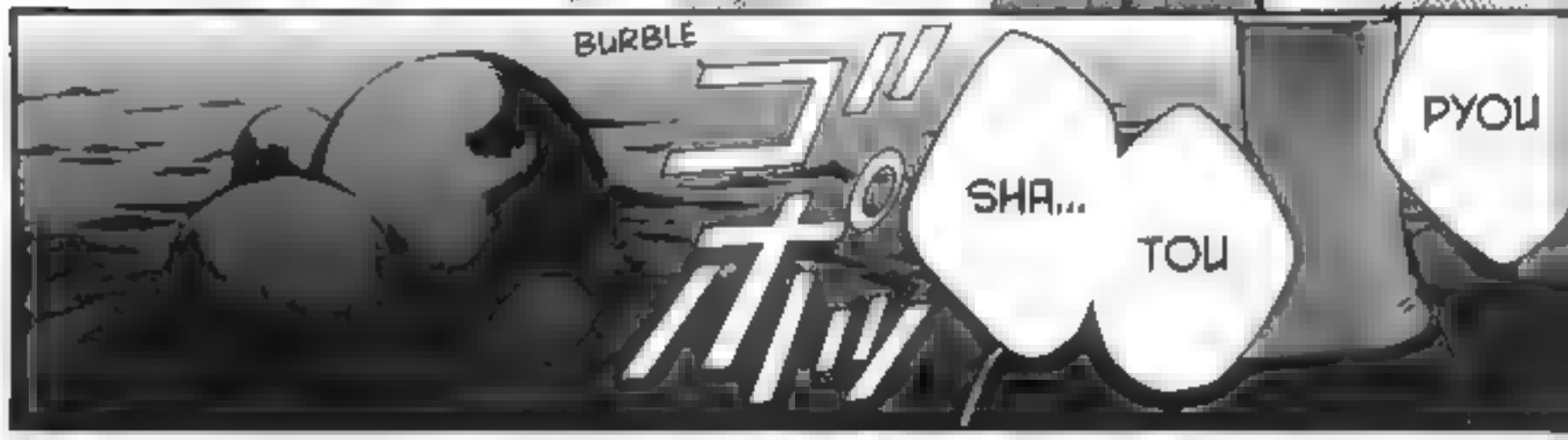
WHY CAN'T I FIND THEM?
GYU
THEY STILL HAVEN'T RETURNED TO THE CONFERENCE ROOM.
AND THEY'RE NOT BACK AT THE OFFICE EITHER.
IF I HURRY...
SO THEY MUST STILL BE PREPARING TO REVERSE THE CURSE.
MAYBE...

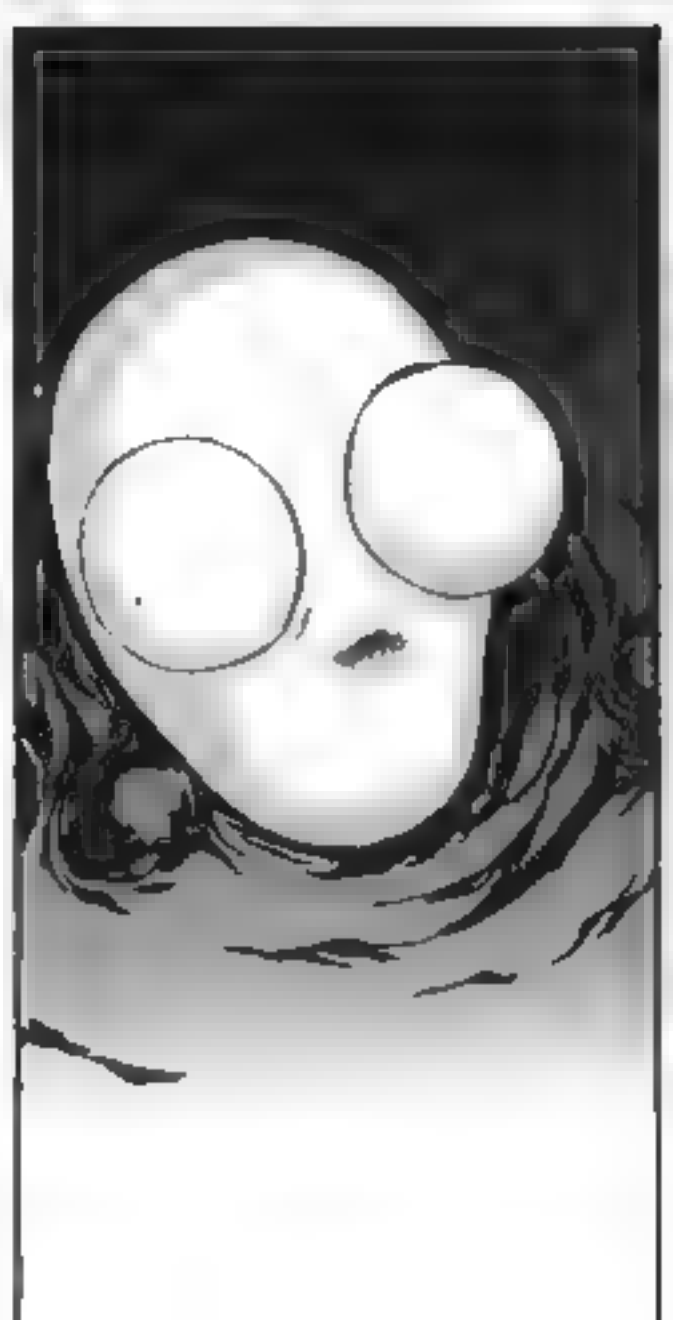
BEFORE THEY GET THE CHANCE, I CAN EXORCISE THE REMAINING SPIRITS MYSELF.
STARTING WITH THE ONE HERE...
KLATTER
KREEEK

WHAT IS THAT SMELL...?
SPLISH
WATER...?
SPLASH
IS THE ROOM DESERTED...?

SPLAT
DRIP
PHEW
I HAVE NO IDEA IF...
GASP
...MY FLIMSY COUNTER-SPELL WILL WORK, BUT...
...NAUMAKU SANMANDA
BAZARADAN
KAN
RUSTLE

-RIN
NAUMAKU SANMANDA BAZARADAN KAN
NAUMAKU SANMANDA BAZARADAN KAN


BURBLE
SHA...
TOU
PYOU



ZAI RETSU ZEN!

CHIN

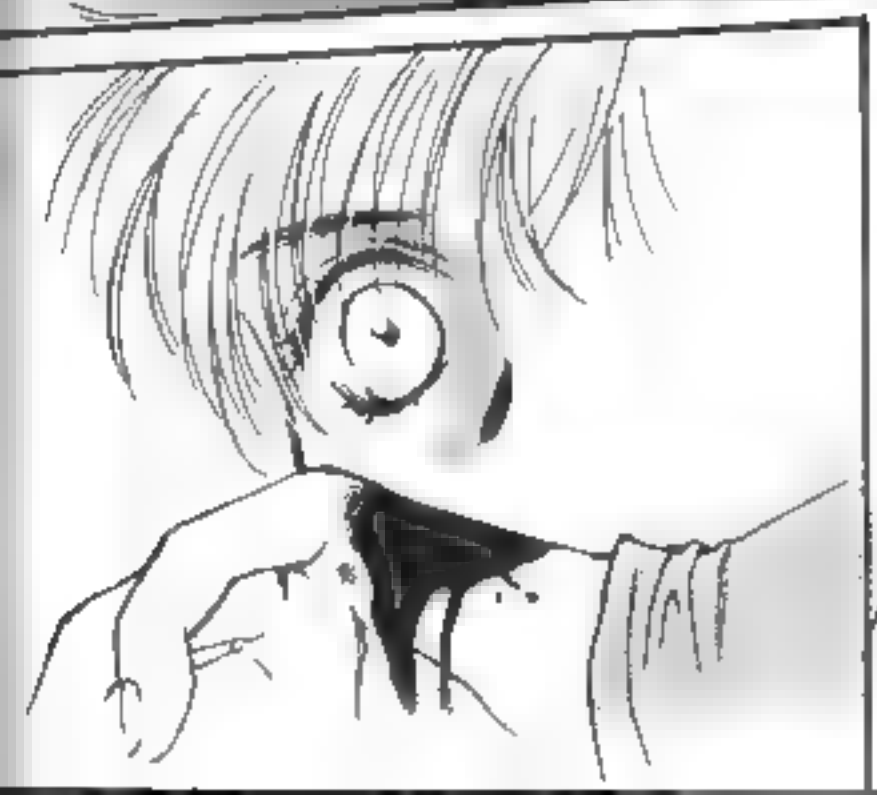
PULL YOURSELF TOGETHER!

KAI

I'M SCARED.

BEGONE-!

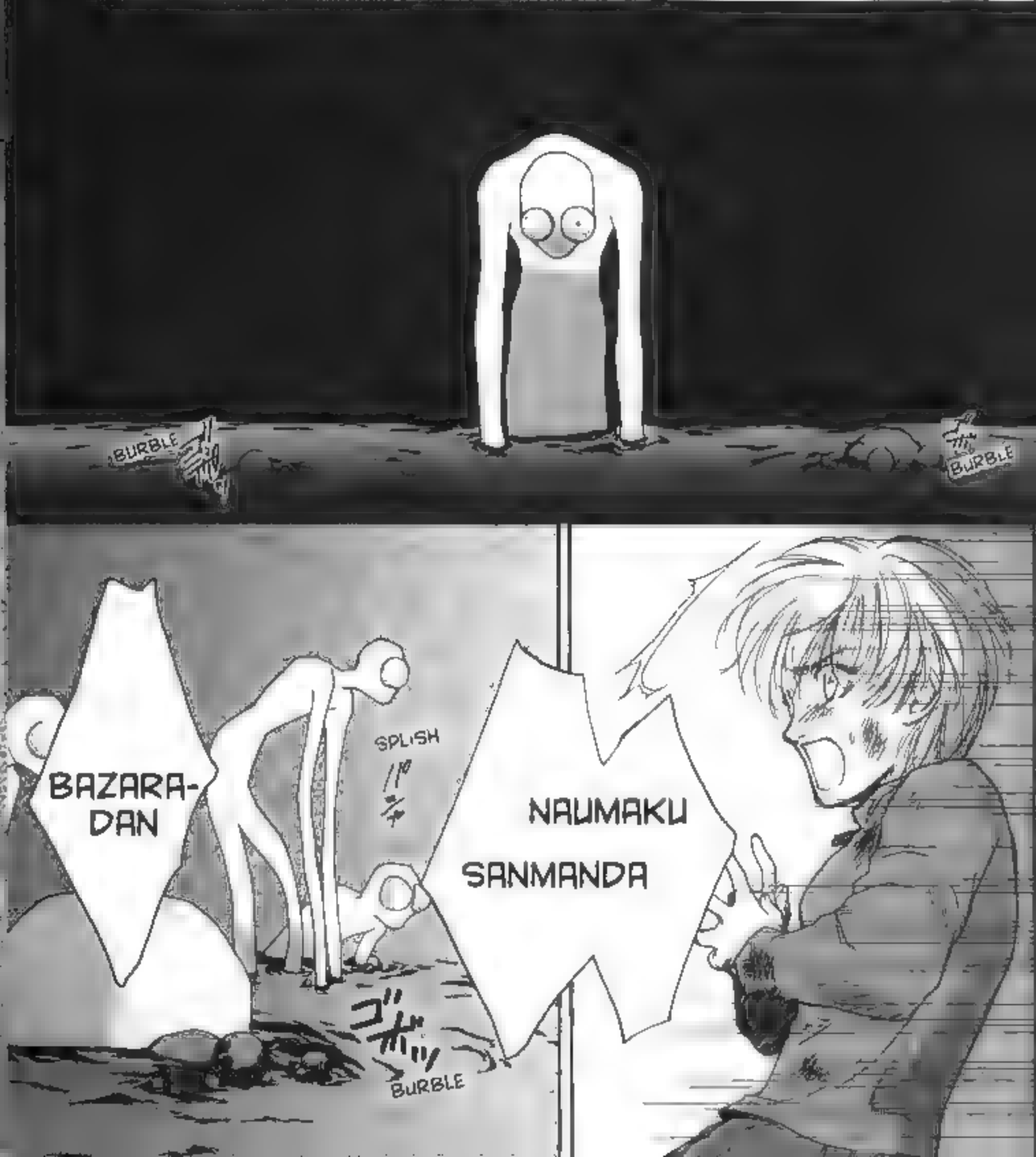
ZAP



SPLASH

BOOM

THIS ISN'T WATER.
IT'S BLOOD!


BURBLE
BURBLE
BAZARA-DAN
SPLISH
NAUMAKU SANMANDA
BURBLE

BURBLE
KA...
SPLISH
NO.
IF YOU DO!
DON'T COME ANY CLOSER!
I...

I KNEW I'D BE NO MATCH.
HELP!
KAAAAA
IT'S OVER.

GHOST HUNT 5

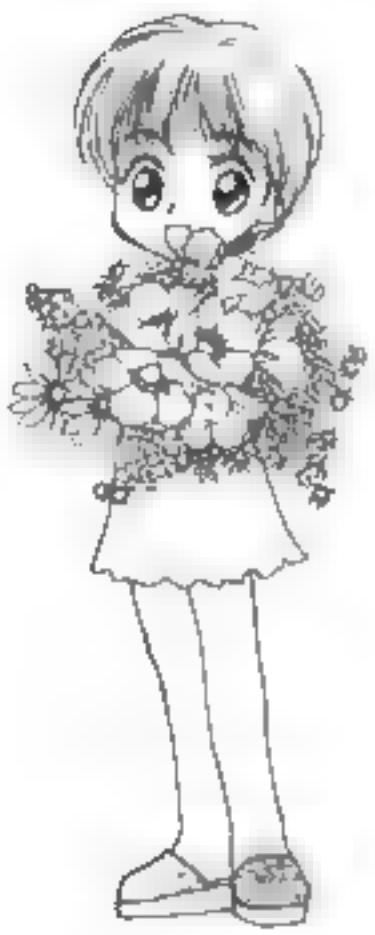
— A FORBIDDEN GAME —

FILE 8

WOOSH

GRIP

WRENCH



THAT'S ENOUGH—!

BAM

ドン!

OUCH!

—ON

バサラ
ギリギリ

HE'S THE ONE WHO JUST GRABBED MY SHOULDER!?

MONK-SAN...

UN
MANDA MANDA
RUSTLE
RUSTLE
BAJIRI HORA
BOOM
HATTA!
BOOM
KLING

RUN!

BAM

BAM

BAM!

SPLASH!

YOU IDIOT!

YOUR COUNTER-SPELLS ARE NO MATCH FOR THOSE SPIRITS! THEY'RE WAY OUT OF YOUR LEAGUE!

I'M...

I'M SORRY.

GASP

DO YOU UNDER-STAND THAT!?

YOU COULD HAVE DIED THERE!

RELAX.

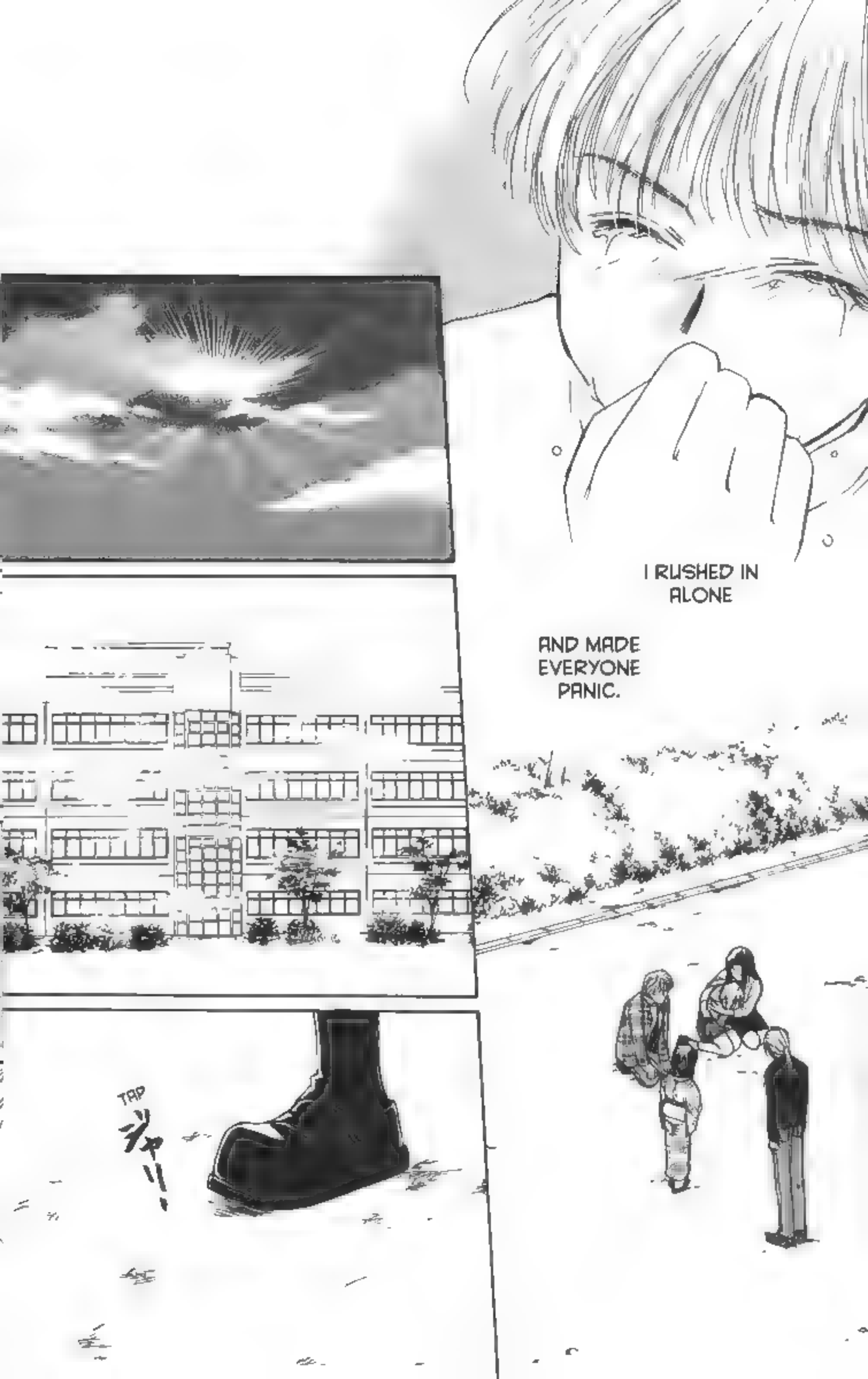
IT'S ALL RIGHT, MAI-SAN.

THAT'S ENOUGH.

FORTUNATELY, YOU GOT THERE IN TIME.

PHH...

I'M SUCH AN IDIOT.


I RUSHED IN ALONE
AND MADE EVERYONE PANIC.
TAP
ジャ!!

IT'S AWFULLY QUIET.

CLASSES SHOULD HAVE STARTED LONG AGO.

THAT CAN'T BE.

I DON'T THINK ANYONE ELSE IS HERE.

I'M NOT SENSING ANY HUMAN PRESENCE.

THEY MUSTN'T HAVE REVERSED THE CURSE YET.

LOOKS LIKE EVERYONE'S AT A MORNING ASSEMBLY.

LOOK INSIDE THE GYM.

HEY.

DID THEY ALREADY REVERSE THE SPELL?

WHAT SETUP ARE YOU CONSIDERING?
NARU AND LIN-SAN ARE ALREADY HERE.
YOU DON'T HAVE A DISPLAY IN HERE.
LET'S HEAD BACK TO THE BASE.
CONFERENCE ROOM
WHAT BRINGS YOU BACK?
THESE TWO
ARE STILL GOING TO REVERSE THE CURSE UPON THE STUDENTS.

EVEN YASUHARA-SAN...

THOSE EVIL PHANTOM LIGHTS WILL TURN ON THE STUDENTS.

YOU'RE STILL SPOUTING THAT NONSENSE?

EVEN IF ALL OF THEM DID PUT A DEATH CURSE ON MATSUYAMA!

IT'S NOT NONSENSE! NO ONE DESERVES THIS!

WHISH

LET'S GET STARTED!

NO!

LIN-SAN, STOP IT! PLEASE!

MAI!?

LIN-SAN!

GRPPP
LET GO!
THAT HURTS!
OUCH!
THEY HAVE NO IDEA, RIGHT!?
EVERYONE IN THE GYM RIGHT NOW...
NO IDEA WHAT'S ABOUT TO HAPPEN TO THEM!
EVERY-BODY GET OUT!
YOU'RE DISTURBING LIN!

DO YOU REALLY THINK THEY WERE ALL INVOLVED?

WHY ARE YOU HELPING MATSUYAMA BY KILLING EVERYONE ELSE/?

WHY/?

THEY DIDN'T KNOW IT WOULD ACTUALLY KILL MATSUYAMA.

THERE ARE PROBABLY PEOPLE WHO UNKNOWINGLY HELPED WITH THE CURSE.

SO WHY ARE YOU TRYING TO KILL THEM ALL/?

MAI/
IF YOU CAN SOLVE THIS CASE, WHAT GOOD WILL COME OF IT?
THE DEATH AND MOURNING. WHAT GOOD WILL IT DO?
IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO STOP.
YOU MURDERERS.../
IT'S NOT TOO LATE!
MONK-SAN.
PLEASE RESTRA N MAI.
WHA...
DON'T YOU DARE!
NARU!

STOP THEM...
...FROM TRYING...
IT'S NOT RIGHT!
MAI...
WHY DOESN'T ANYONE STOP THOSE TWO?
HAVE FAITH IN NARU.
WOULD HE?
BUT...
SO HAVE FAITH. IT'LL BE FINE.
NO.
YOU DON'T REALLY THINK THAT NARU WOULD BETRAY OUR BELIEFS, DO YOU?

DO YOU THINK I'M NOT WORRIED, TOO?
BUT...
YASUHARA IS AMONG THEM.
ALL RIGHT.
GOOD GIRL.
NARU.
IT'S ONLY NATURAL.
THERE'S NO REASON FOR EVERYONE NOT TO BE WORRIED.
ABSOLUTELY.

GASP
MAI.
IT'S OVER? REALLY!?
YES.

WHAM!
EVERYONE!
WHEEZE
WHAT HAPPENED?
WHAT IS IT?
!

HITOGATA: AN OBJECT RESEMBLING A HU[illegible] AS A REPLACEMENT FOR THAT PERSON. YOU CAN USE IT AS A TOOL TO MURDER SOMEONE IN A GRUDGE BY PUNCTURING IT WITH NAILS—OR AS A TOOL TO WARD OFF ILLNESS BY PURIFYING IT WITH FLOWING WATER.

WHOR

WHAT'S UP?

MONK-SAN.

ASK JOHN TO VERIFY THE HITOGATAS.

NARU.

WOULD YOU PLEASE GATHER UP THE NAMETAGS ON THE UNDAMAGED HITOGATAS.

MAKE A LIST OF THE NAMES. THEN FIND OUT WHERE THOSE INDIVIDUALS ARE AND MAKE SURE THEY'RE SAFE.

THESE HITOGATAS WERE STAND-INS FOR THE REAL PEOPLE?

AND MAI...

MATSU-ZAKI-SAN, HARA-SAN...

AS FOR

MAYBE.

YES?

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

THIS FIFTH VOLUME IS THE LAST VOLUME OF GHOST HUNT.

—OKAY, THAT'S A LIE, BUT... (WAHAHAH. ^-)

STARTING WITH THE NEXT VOLUME (VOL. 6), I'LL BE SKIPPING THE MAGAZINE SERIALIZATION AND PUBLISHING DIRECTLY IN THIS BOOK FORMAT. I'LL STILL DRAW AT THE SAME RATE AS I DID FOR THE MONTHLY MAGAZINE; I'M PLANNING ONE VOLUME EVERY HALF YEAR (AT LEAST, SAY IT'S ONE VOLUME EVERY HALF YEAR.)

BEFORE EVERY VOLUME'S RELEASE, NAKAYOSHI MAGAZINE WILL PUBLICIZE THE RELEASE DATE AND NEWS, SO PLEASE CHECK IT OUT, OK?

...AND, SINCE I'M DRAWING DIRECTLY FOR THE BOOK FORMAT, I WON'T HAVE THIS 1/3 PAGE OF EMPTY SPACE TO FILL WITH MY NOTES. (THIS IS THE SPACE WHERE MAGAZINES WOULD OTHERWISE INSERT ADS.)

WHAAAT/ DOES THAT MEAN THIS IS THE FINAL 1/3-PAGE AUTHOR'S NOTE/? (HEY/ DON'T SOUND TOO DISAPPOINTED/)

SO, I'LL SEE YOU IN VOL. 6/ ^

Special thanx

Y. JOHIDA / A. SAKAMOTO / T. WATA
NABE / M. MIYAMOTO /
and R. ONO
/ I. ZUSHI / T. KAMAGATA

OSAMU YASUHARA
THESE ARE THE HITOGATAS FOR SOME OF THE STUDENTS.
WAS PERFORMED ENTIRELY ON SURROGATE HITOGATAS.
THE CURSE THAT WAS REVERSED ONTO THE STUDENTS WHO INVOKED ORIKIRI-SAMA...
AS A RESULT, SOME WERE DAMAGED.
AND THOSE FOR THE STUDENTS WHO HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH THE CURSE REMAINED UNDAMAGED.
NARU HAD THIS ALL PLANNED OUT.

EVER SINCE HE DECIDED TO REVERSE THE CURSE...

HEY.

IS THAT SO?

WOULD IT HAVE BEEN WRONG TO HAVE MADE A MATSUYAMA HITOGATA AS A SURROGATE ALSO?

CURSING ONE PERSON'S HITOGATA, OR SPLITTING THE CURSE AMONG 600?

WHICH IS SAFER?

AS MUCH AS LIN WANTED TO, HE COULDN'T SAVE EVERYONE.

IT'S HARD TO TRANSFER CURSES ONTO HITOGATAS.

MAN!

YOU COULD HAVE AT LEAST TOLD ME WHAT YOU WERE PLANNING.

YOU MURDERER!

NOW I REALIZE THOSE MEAN THINGS I SAID...

BUT...

THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEAN.

WERE WRONG.

IT'S BECAUSE YOU GIVE UP ON OTHER PEOPLE SO EASILY.

THAT WAS REALLY CRUEL OF ME.

IT'S ANNOYING.

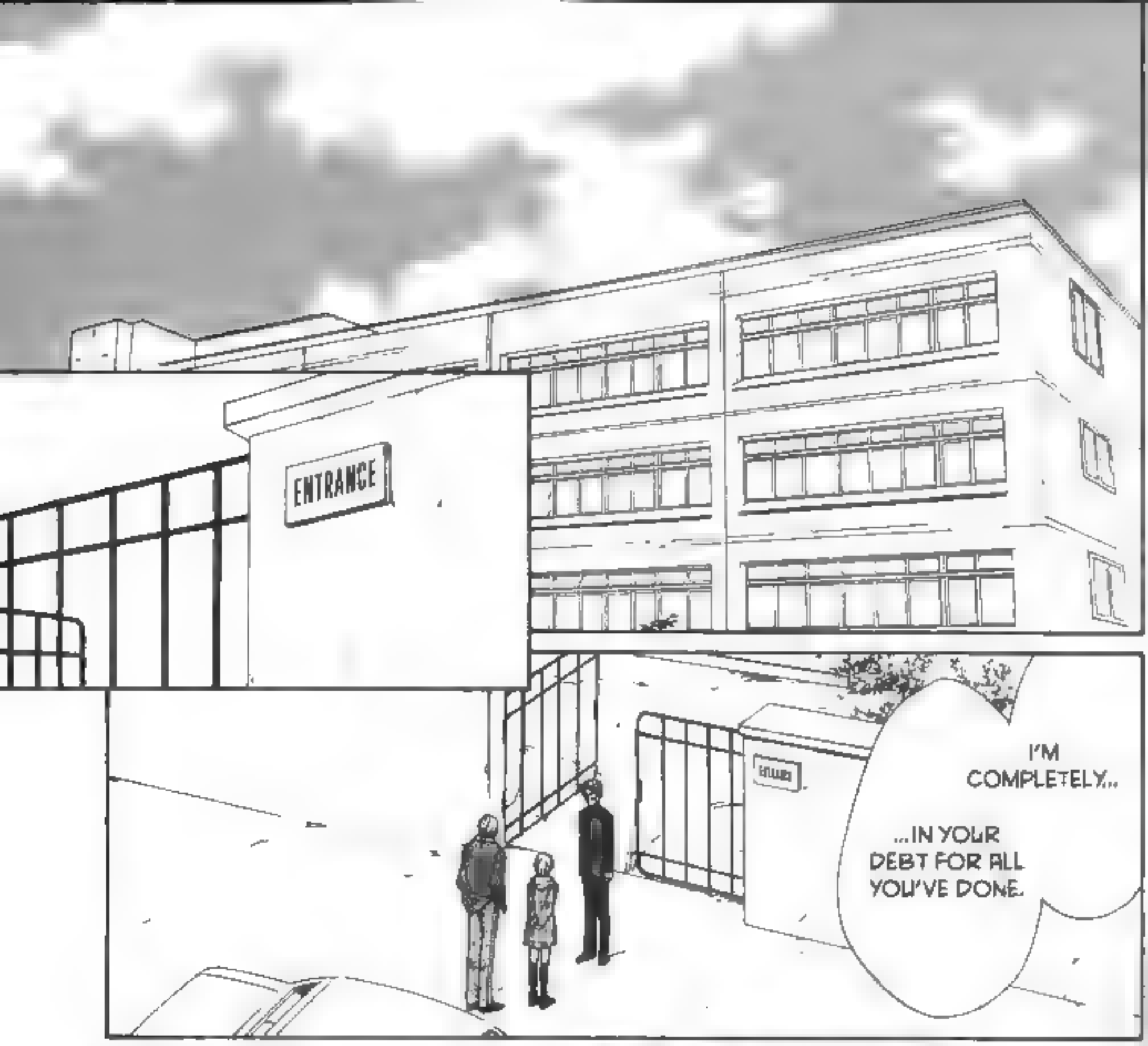
YOU SHOULD DO SOMETHING ABOUT THAT.

UNBELIEVABLE!

—

SWOOSH

AND YOU JUST THREW IT BACK IN MY FACE!
I...I APOLOGIZED TO YOU...
YOU'RE ALWAYS LIKE THAT WITH ME!
HEH.


ENTRANCE
I'M COMPLETELY...
...IN YOUR DEBT FOR ALL YOU'VE DONE.

SAKAUCHI-KUN...

THAT'S A GOOD IDEA.
SINCE SAKAUCHI'S CURSE TURNED OUT TO BE THE CAUSE OF ALL THIS...
I THINK WE'LL HOLD A MEMORIAL TO CALM THINGS DOWN A BIT

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

NO IDEA.

I DON'T KNOW, BUT...

WAS HE DISAPPOINTED THAT THE CURSE FAILED

OR RELIEVED?

PAT PAT

THAT'S WHAT I HOPE.

IT WOULD BE BETTER IF HE WERE RELIEVED.

THAT'S RIGHT...

DO YOU MEAN WHEN THE CURSE WAS REVERSED?

"BACK THEN"? ...OH...

WERE YOU FRIGHTENED BACK THEN?

BY THE WAY, JUST BETWEEN YOU AND ME...

...IN MYSELF.

WELL, NO, SINCE I BELIEVED...

HMM...

HUH?

I FELT SURE THAT NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENED, AT LEAST I WOULD BE SAVED.

A-HA-HA-HA

HEY, IT'S NOT A GOOD YEAR TO DIE.

HAVE A GOOD... AND LONG... LIFE, YASUHARA!

I PLAN TO.

HEY! LET'S HURRY UP AND GET OUT OF HERE!

LET'S GO, "PAPA"!

— CONTINUED IN VOL 6 —

I'M TRAPPED IN MY SUCCESS

IT ONLY CAME TO CHASE SHIBUYA'S HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS AND ME.

(A BIG LIE.)

FORMALIN PRESERVATIVE

AN ALIEN.

WELL, THIS THING HAS BEEN ON MY MIND FOR SEVERAL YEARS NOW.

THERE'S A LOT TO COVER, SO LET'S GET STARTED.

Hi!

IT LIKES WEARING G-SHOCKS.

IT CAME HERE FROM SOMEWHERE IN SPACE. IT OCCASIONALLY ABDUCTS EARTHLINGS AND ALTERS THEM!

AHAHAHAHA...

HEE HEE HEE

WAIT, YOU LITTLE...

BEFORE I COULD REACT, HE (?) SECRETLY INFECTED THE CREVICES OF MY MIND...

HOW GROSS!

SURE, ALIENS ARE THE LATEST CULT FAD NOW, BUT THIS HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH THAT.

WHO KNOWS WHAT ELSE IS BURIED IN MY NOGGIN?

HEY, LET'S LIVE TOGETHER AS ALIENS!

IT'S NOT TRUE! → TRUE.

DOES THIS HAVE SOMETHING TO DO WITH THAT CONSPIRACY THEORY OF YOURS?

WHAT DO YOU MEAN!?

HE'S NOT MY TYPE.

OH, NOT HIM.

YOU HAVE A TYPE!?

ALL ABOUT IT

I TOLD MY CLOSEST FRIEND...

NO WAY! YOU SAW HIM IN A COMMERCIAL!

IT'S THAT GUY

HUH?

TV

★★ THE END ★★

CHARACTER DATA

I'VE GOTTEN PILES OF LETTERS SAYING, "TELL US THE BIRTHDAYS AND SO ON FOR MAI AND EVERYONE ELSE!" SO LET'S ANSWER THOSE QUESTIONS HERE!

EACH ONE APPEARS ON THE FRONT OR BACK COVER OF THIS MANGA.

MAI TANIYAMA

BIRTHDAY: JULY 3 (CANCER)
BLOOD TYPE: B
HEIGHT: 155 CM (5'1")

*16 YEARS OLD AS OF VOLUME 5

KAZUYA SHIBUYA

BIRTHDAY: SEPTEMBER 19 (VIRGO)
BLOOD TYPE: A
HEIGHT: 175 CM (5'9")

*17 YEARS OLD AS OF VOLUME 5

HOUSHOU TAKIGAWA

BIRTHDAY: JANUARY 22 (AQUARIUS)
BLOOD TYPE: O
HEIGHT: 185 CM (6'1")

*25 YEARS OLD AS OF VOLUME 5

AYAKO MATSUZAKI

BIRTHDAY: JUNE 7 (GEMINI)
BLOOD TYPE: B
HEIGHT: 167 CM (5'6")

* 23 YEARS OLD AS OF VOLUME 5

JOHN BROWN

BIRTHDAY: JANUARY 5 (CAPRICORN)
BLOOD TYPE: A
HEIGHT: 162 CM (5'4")

*20 YEARS OLD AS OF VOLUME 5

MASAKO HARA

BIRTHDAY: JULY 24 (LEO)
BLOOD TYPE: AB
HEIGHT: 152 CM (5')

*16 YEARS OLD AS OF VOLUME 5

OSAMU YASUHARA

BIRTHDAY: MARCH 1 (PISCES)
BLOOD TYPE: AB
HEIGHT: 177 CM (5'10")

*17 YEARS OLD AS OF VOLUME 5

LIN-SAN

BIRTHDAY: JANUARY 11 (CAPRICORN)
BLOOD TYPE: A
HEIGHT: 194 CM (6'4")

EVERYTHING ELSE ABOUT HIM
IS A MYSTERY.

About the Creators of Ghost Hunt

ABOUT THE CREATOR

•

Shiho Inada

Born on October 17 in Kanagawa Prefecture.

Sign: Libra.

Blood type: B.

She made her debut with *Camouflage* in 1994.

Her best-known work is *Ghost Hunt*.

ABOUT THE WRITER

•

Fuyumi Ono

Born in Oita Prefecture

She made her debut with *Teen's Heart*,
published on Kodansha X Library.

Her most popular works are the *Evil Spirit* series and the *Twelve Kingdom* series.

Her works are widely read, and although her novels are considered young adult fiction, her works are read by people from all walks of life.

Translation Notes

Japanese is a tricky language for most Westerners, and translation is often more art than science. For your edification and reading pleasure, here are notes on some of the places where we could have gone in a different direction in our translation of the work, or where a Japanese cultural reference is used

PAGE 2, *MIKO*

Miko means "a priestess serving as an assistant at a shrine." In ancient times, the *miko* served as a psychic medium. Although today her main functions are to assist the priest in ceremonies and also perform ceremonial dances (*miko-mai*), many people still believe that the *miko* regularly performs her ancient duties.

PAGE 6, PHANTOM LIGHTS

In many folklore traditions around the world, phantom lights have an occult significance. they prefigure the appearance of ghosts, spirits of the dead, and other mysterious creatures of the night—and are sometimes omens of death. *Onibi* is the Japanese name for these lights; in other languages, they're known as corpse candles, *ignis fatuus*, *irrlicht*, will o' the wisps, and jack-o'-lanterns (the last being the inspiration for the Halloween pumpkin tradition)

PAGE 7, NARU-BOU

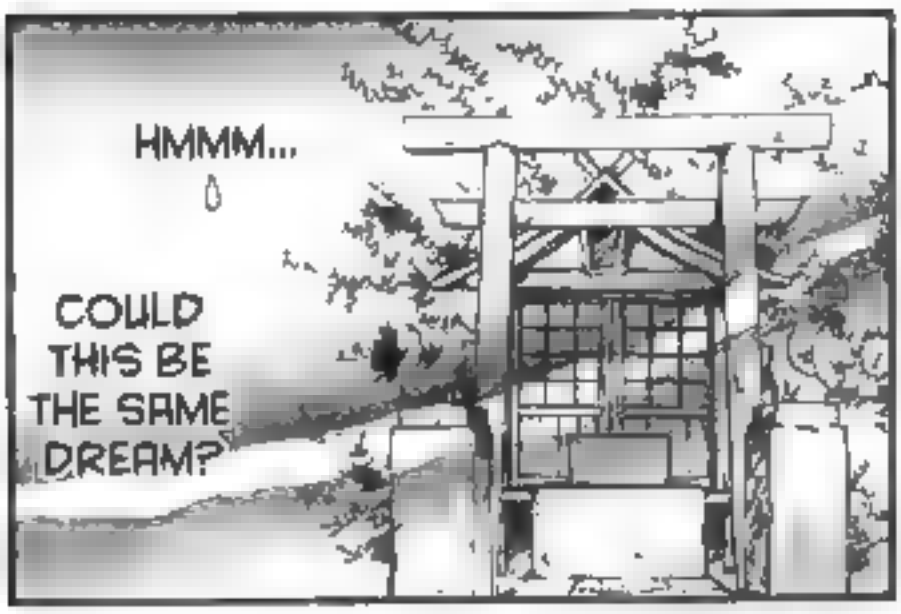
The monk Houshou Takigawa calls Kazuya Shibuya by the nickname "Naru-bou." As explained in the beginning of the book, almost everyone calls Shibuya "Naru" (short for "narcissist"). Takigawa adds the suffix *-bou* (monk or priest), similar to how other people call Takigawa "Bou-san" ("Monk-san").

PAGE 26, NARA ERA

The Nara Period (AD 710–794) is most notable for fostering the rise of Buddhism and written literature in Japan.

PAGE 27, *KEKKAI*

Kekkai is a Buddhist spell cast to limit the movement of spirits. It is often used during an exorcism.



PAGE 46, O-INARI-SAN

Inari (or "O-Inari-san" with all the proper honorifics) is the god of fertility, rice, and foxes in the Japanese religion of Shinto. Mai can tell that she is at a shrine for Inari because it has red gates (*torii*) and fox statues in front.

PAGE 51, ACALA

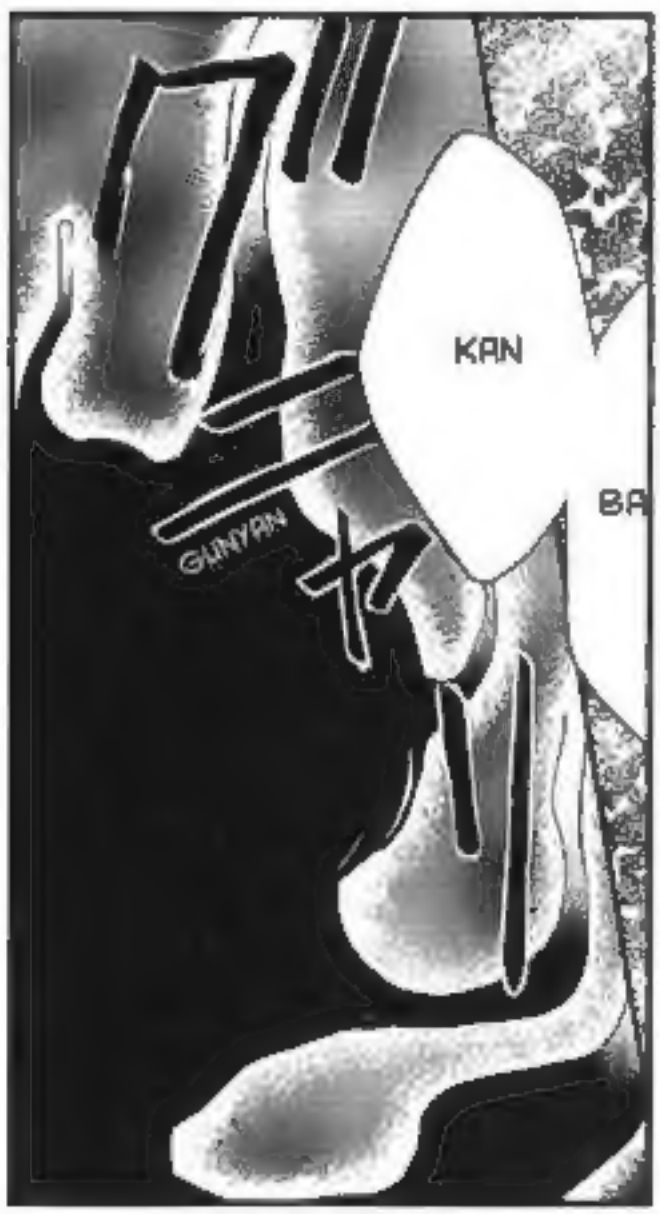
Fudou Myou-Ou ("The Immovable Wisdom Kind") is the Japanese name for Acala or The Immovable One. Acala is the Vajrayana Buddhist destroyer of illusions who is famous for his fierce, unmoving resolve against temptations. It was Monk-san, a former Buddhist monk, who taught Mai how to invoke this deity to protect herself.

PAGE 51, *RIN PYOU TOU SHA KAI JIN RETSU ZAI ZEN*

All types of Shinto practitioners from *miko* to ninja warriors have chanted these nine words as a classic mantra. The words represent concepts integral to channeling your body energy or *chi*, and specific hand gestures (*mudra* or *in*) accompany each. Roughly speaking, the nine words stand, respectively, for strength of body and mind, channeling of energy, harmony with the universe, healing, sensing danger, empathy, awareness of space and time, control of nature, and enlightenment. As many manga characters know, they are also useful for warding off demons and spirits.

PAGE 54, COUNTER-SPELL

Mai is chanting *Tai-Mahou*, a type of Japanese counter-spell. In this case, it is a mantra (*Naumaku Sanmanda Bazaradan Kan*) to Acala that the former Buddhist monk Takigawa taught Mai. It is extremely complicated to translate it into a foreign language, so we have left it in Japanese to maintain its authenticity.



PAGE 54, *GUNYAN*

Gunyan is a "soundless" effect that represents a sudden realization by a character. You may think of it as a less campy version of the lit lightbulb over a character's head in Western cartoons.

PAGE 89, *KOKKURI-SAN*

Kokkuri-san is a popular spirit-communication game similar to the Ouija board. All it requires is a sheet of paper marked with the *Gojuu-on* (literally, the 50 syllables of the Japanese language, although only 46 are used now), the digits 1 though 0—as with a Ouija board, the players would spell 10 in *Kokkuri-san* by pointing to 1 and then 0—and the words "yes" and "no." (People also often draw a shrine gate in the middle.) While two people hold a pen together above the paper, a spirit "guides" the pen over the characters to spell out a message. The name is supposedly inspired by the sound trembling hands make as a spirit guides them, and it is also the nickname of the spirit itself.

PAGE 93, LIN-SAN'S PICTURE

The artist mentions that she drew a picture of Lin-san on the "compilation volume's back cover flap." As is not unusual for manga series in Japan, *Ghost Hunt* was published in paperback editions with an illustrated jacket—just like the jackets that usually appear only on hardcover books in the U.K. We know that Lin-san has his fans in the West, too, so here's the illustration that originally appeared on the Japanese edition's back cover flap!

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The students of Ryokuryou High School *think* they've been playing a fun new game called Orikiri. They have no idea that it's actually a wicked spell conjuring up evil spirits that intend to kill their sensei! Even more troubling is that with each passing minute, the strongest spirit eerily devours the other apparitions and grows ever more destructive. Since the spirit can't be stopped, there's only one way to save the sensei: turn the curse around onto the students who initiated it! Mai and Naru clash mightily on this case, as Shibuya Psychic Research must choose between the sensei and the students... and time's running out!

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